THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Iran thwarts major 'terror plot', attacks



Record 65 million people displaced worldwide: UN



LeBron delivers on promise, leads Cavs to NBA title



Bahrain strips a senior cleric of citizenship



MPS WANT APPOINTMENT OF EXPATS IN GOVT JOBS BANNED

Min 30° **Max** 46° **High Tide** 01:16 & 11:38 **Low Tide** 06:14 & 19:22

LAWMAKERS URGE GOVERNMENT TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF INCOME

conspiracy theories

NOT SECURITY, FOR **HEAVEN'S SAKE**



By Badrya Darwish

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h, at last - a light, said Columbus. At last the miracle happened and we wake up to the fact that our airport security is not up to the standard. Actually, pretty much everything at the airport is not up to par but security is the most pressing issue. It's the main concern especially nowadays with the hysteria of terrorism all over the

Kuwait is a well traveled nation, Alhumdulilah. Why for so many years have we kept quiet about the situation at the airport? - Except for a few articles here and there from time to time in the newspapers which were largely ignored. Is it not the duty of the honorable gentlemen in parliament to raise this issue and pursue it? Why did we have to wait for the Americans to throw water in our eyes and threaten us that our national airline would be blocked from flying to New York? Why because we lack security in our airport in Kuwait!

Then, I heard that there is a project or plan to privatize security at the airport. I think this is the worst idea that a country could adopt to privatize its security. Are you kidding me, guys? Security is the main concern of the country and the government and we have a well funded and quite large Ministry of Interior specifically tasked with this role. Actually, in fact, privatizing security anywhere in the country but especially the airport is an insult to our Ministry of Interior.

If our officers lack the training, that's no problem. Send them to the US, UK or elsewhere to train on airport security procedures and protocols. Anyway, they should already be receiving training as security systems and protocols are updated regularly. But please stop them from using their mobiles when they are on duty. How many times have you passed through the airport and noticed that the customs officers are busy chatting on their mobiles or sending messages? Not all of them but definitely a majority. There should be quality control even in the army, the officers and the ministers. People are people everywhere, if there is no control they will slack. It's not a miracle to make it happen, it only needs the political will.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh (inset) seen with other lawmakers during yesterday's National Assembly session in Kuwait City. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Lawmakers yesterday called on the government to issue a decision imposing a total ban on the appointment of expatriates in government jobs in a bid to resolve what they called unemployment among citizens. The call came during an Assembly session to discuss the 2016/2017 budgets of nine new government authorities. MPs also called on the government to diversify sources of income.

Minister of Finance and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh said that the Civil Service Commission has indeed issued a decision banning the appointment of expatriates in government jobs except in urgent need. Based on the decision, government ministries and departments willing to appoint non-Kuwaitis should first consult with the Commission which study each case sepa-

Justice and Awgaf Minister Yacoub Al-Sane said the Kuwaitization of the judiciary jobs is the responsibility of the Supreme Judicial Council. He said he asked the Public Prosecutor about the possibility of increasing the number of Kuwaitis to be appointed as prosecutors. During the debate, MP Jamal Al-Omar said a decision to impose a total ban on the appointment of expatriates in the government is to "resolve a real unemployment problem among Kuwaiti youth".

He said that the government talks something on this matter but it does something totally different regarding appointment of foreigners.

Continued on Page 13

SCCA REVIEWS NEW AIRPORT SECURITY

International Airport, to be implemented by US security firm TSA. In a statement carried exclusively by KUNA, in the airport, which aim to ensure maximal conven-

KUWAIT: The Supreme Council of Civil Aviation (SCCA) SCCA said that the meeting, presided over by Ministry ience to all commuters, the statement noted held an urgent meeting yesterday to discuss the of Interior Undersecretary Sulaiman Al-Fahad, tackled progress of new security measures at Kuwait security precautions taken by the Ministry. Moreover, the officials reviewed new measures to bolster security

Meanwhile, the statement also pointed out that the airport no longer possesses the capacity needed to accommodate some 12 million travelers who converge on the airport yearly. — KUNA

US SIX FLAGS EYES SAUDI

Bringing roller coasters to the Kingdom

DUBAI: US theme park company Six Flags Entertainment Corp plans to expand to Saudi Arabia, its chief executive told Saudi-owned Arabiya TV yesterday, bringing roller coasters and bumper cars to the ultra-conservative kingdom. "We're very honored to be provided with an opportunity to enter into a partnership to bring Six Flags to the kingdom ... Our parks can provide the entertainment to which Saudis aspire," CEO John Duffey said.

His comments were dubbed into Arabic. Duffey did not elaborate on the terms of the partnership. He was speaking following a meeting with Saudi deputy crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is visiting the United States to promote a reform plan to wean the kingdom away from oil

revenue. The powerful royal, who also heads the country's economic council, hopes the so-called "Vision 2030" initiative will jumpstart the private sector, provide jobs for a growing

population and improve Saudis' cloistered lifestyles. "We consider culture and entertainment indispensable to our quality of life. We are well aware that the cultural and entertainment opportunities currently available do not reflect the rising aspirations of our citizens and residents," the 2030 plan said in April. Salman's reform plans flirt with social change in a country where women are barred from driving, cinemas are banned and women's sports are discouraged as promoting sin.

Continued on Page 13

KUWAIT FM DENIES COMOROS-BEDOON 'NATIONALITY DEAL'

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Minister said yesterday that a deal to grant thousands of stateless people in the Gulf state Comoran nationality had not been struck despite recent reports. Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah, in comments published in the Al-Qabas daily newspaper, denied rumors circulating in Kuwaiti media on the agreement. "If we sign an agreement with any country, the Foreign Ministry is obliged... to complete the necessary legal procedures in accordance with the constitution," the minister said.

Comoran External Affairs Minister Abdulkarim Mohamed said in Kuwait last month that his country was ready to consider taking thousands of stateless people denied citizenship there. Local media in Kuwait recently suggested that a deal was in the works and reported scams involving large sums charged for assistance in obtaining Comoran citizenship. More than 110,000 stateless people, locally known as bedoons, have been living in Kuwait for decades claiming the right to citizenship in the oil-rich emirate and the generous welfare benefits that accompany it.

But the government describes them as "illegal residents" and says only 34,000 qualify for consideration for citizenship. Impoverished Comoros consists of three islands in the Indian Ocean with a population of just under 800,000 people, nearly all of them Sunni Muslims. Despite the country's distance from the Middle East and North Africa, it is a member of the Arab League as well as the African Union. Several years ago, Comoros offered thousands of bedoons in the United Arab Emirates citizenship in exchange for generous aid packages in a deal similar to the Kuwait proposal. — AFP



PESHAWAR: A Pakistani religious student takes a nap in a class during the Islamic month of Ramadan, in Peshawar. — AP

Ramadan Kareem

THEMES OF THE QURAN: STORIES OF PROPHETS

By Teresa Lesher

he Quran, which was first revealed in the month of Ramadan, mentions 25 prophets by name, and relates their stories as a guidance for contemporary communities. Through these stories, we see a general pattern of how Almighty God sent various people to warn their communities of the dire consequences of worshipping false gods and committing shameless acts, and the events that transpired when those prophets confronted their people.

Although, according to the Quran, there will be no more prophets after Muhammad (PBUH), we can benefit from his story as well as those of the prophets who came before him. One of the most eminent prophets was Abraham (PBUH), who is mentioned 73 times in the Quran. He rejected the worship of celestial bodies, fire, and all false gods. The Quran says, "When the night covered him over, He saw a star: He said, 'This is my Lord.' But when it set, He said, 'I love not those that set.'

When he saw the moon rising in splendor, he said, 'This is my Lord.' But when the moon set, He said, 'Unless my Lord guide me, I shall surely be among those who go astray.' When he saw the sun rising in splendor, he said, 'This is my Lord; this is the greatest (of all).' But when the sun set, he said, 'O my people! I am indeed free from your (guilt) of giving partners to Allah.

For me, I have set my face, firmly and truly, towards Him Who created the heavens and the earth, and never shall I give partners to Allah" [6:75-79]. Abraham (PBUH) was a staunch believer and pure monotheist, an example for all people. The Quran says, "And who would be averse to the religion of Abraham except one who makes a fool of himself... When his Lord said to him, 'Submit,' he said, 'I have submitted to the Lord of the worlds." (2:130-131).

Abraham (PBUH) and his son Ishmael (PBUH) build the Kaaba in Makkah, around which Muslims pray until today. Another well-known prophet mentioned in the Quran is Noah (PBUH), who spent his long life calling people to worship the one true God, but whose message was rejected except by a few. He was ordered to build the ark, which resulted in even more ridicule from his people. Finally, God saved him and those with him for their belief from the deluge that destroyed an obstinate, defiant, sinful people.

Other prophets include Jacob, Joseph, David and Solomon, as well as Job, Jonah, and Lot (Peace be unto them), all whose stories are interspersed throughout the Quran.

Continued on Page 13

PM VISITS ARMED FORCES OFFICERS CLUB



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah makes a remark in the guestbook.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visited the Armed Forces Officers Club Sunday on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. Upon his arrival, His Highness the Premier was received by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chief of General Staff of the Army Lieutenant-General Mohammad Al-Khoder, Defense Ministry Undersecretary Jassar Abdulrazzaq Al-Jassar, and Deputy Chief of staff of the Army General Sheikh Abdullah Nawaf Al-Sabah.

During the visit, His Highness exchanged friendly talks with senior army officers, expressing his appreciation and pride of army personnel's distinctive efforts in defending Kuwait, as well as their constant vigilance in protecting the nation.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah expressed his appreciation of His Highness the Prime Minister's initiative in visiting the club and meeting with army senior commanders and officers during the holy month of Ramadan, pointing out the Kuwaiti political leadership's keenness on keeping a constant communication with military personnel. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Secretary General of the Arab League Nabil Al-Araby. — Amiri Diwan photo

AMIR RECEIVES ARAB LEAGUE'S SECRETARY GENERAL

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the presence of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, received at Seif Palace yesterday Secretary General of the Árab League Nabil Al-Araby on the occasion of the end of his tenure.

His Highness the Amir thanked the top Arab official for all his efforts during his career as Secretary General of the Arab League, wishing him all the success in future endeavors. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah later received Araby, in presence of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. Also, Sabah Al-Khaled met separately with Araby, in attendance of Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's office affairs Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met yesterday with National Security Apparatus (NSA) Chairman Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interioir Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Minister of Information and Minsiter of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah. Separately, His Highness the Prime Minister received movie director Abdullah Al-Mekhyal, who presented to him copies of two documentaries he has directed and produced.

Condolences

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences yesterday to the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo on victims of heavy rains, floods and landslides in the Indonesian province of Central Java. His Highness the Amir prayed Almighty Allah would have mercy on the souls of the victims and wished fast recovery for the wounded. His Highness the Crown and His Highness the Prime Minister sent the Indonesian leader similar cables. — KUNA



left) is seen during his visit to the Armed Forces Officers Club. —KUNA photos



member of the academic board at Kuwait University, Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Society for the Ideal Family, Author Abdullah Buwair and his father Abbas Buwair attend the book signing. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Sheikha Maymouna Al-Khalifa Al-Athbi Al-Sabah signs the 'Khitabat Al Amir' book.

AUTHOR CELEBRATES MARTYRS'FAMILIES, HOSTS BOOK SIGNING

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Author Abdullah Buwair held a book signing on Sunday at Crowne Plaza Hotel as he launched his book 'Khitabat Al Amir' (the speeches of His Highness the Amir), part of a celebration for the families of martyrs. The

event was attended by Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Society for the Ideal Family, Sheikha Maymouna Al-Khalifa Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, member of the academic board at Kuwait University, Salah Al-Oufan, Head of the Martyr's Office, and the families of Kuwait's martyrs.

Sheikha Maymouna presented a speech about terrorism, reminding the events that took place in Kuwait's history, including the bombing of traditional cafes in the 1980s, the Iraqi invasion in 1990, and latest of these dramatic events - the bombing of the Sadeg Mosque in Ramadan last year.

"National unity is our weapon against terrorism. Terrorism spread around the world and some connected it to Islam, but Islam in fact is fighting terrorism. Unfortunately, the terrorists succeeded to attract Kuwaiti youth to commit terrorist acts. But we should work on making the new generation aware of this danger,"

stressed Sheikha Maymouna. After the book signing ceremony, a short documentary about Kuwait, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was presented. This was followed by honoring the martyrs and awarding certificates and valuable gifts to their families.



Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah signs the book.



Author Abdullah Buwair signs the book.



A child greets Sheikha Fareeha Al-Sabah.



Top guests in attendance.



Sheikha Maymouna, Sheikha Fareeha and Abdullah Buwair stand by a giant portrait painting for Sheikha Fareeha.



Author Abdullah Buwair presents a gift to a woman honored during the event.



GERMANY TOP DESTINATION FOR KUWAITI TOURISTS

KUWAIT: Germany has become the numberone destination for Kuwaiti tourists in the 2016 recreational summer season; with Switzerland and Austria ranking second, according to travel agents. However, new favored leisure destinations have recently appeared on the Kuwaitis' external tourist map; namely Bosnia, Bulgaria and Georgia.

This season's booking durations have ranged between three weeks to one month, mostly in the post Eid Al-Fitr time. Coincidence of the summer season with Al-Fitr has encouraged many holidaymakers to choose remote countries such as Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Gulf countries, London and Turkey are being selected for short vacations, ranging between three to

Sami Abulso'ud, manager of a travel agency, said in an interview that the top favored destinations for the Kuwaitis this summer are Europe, Turkey and east Asian the Eid vacation. —KUNA

countries, affirming that Bosnia-Herzegovina is also in the list, due to its attractive nature, moderate weather, reasonable prices and visa-free entry.

The fall of the Holy Month Ramadan in the summer vacation has compelled the travel agents to alter standing policies and measures, such as compelling travelers to pay fares 45 days in advance. Moreover, he opines that online booking has also negatively affected the business, significantly trimming profits.

Meanwhile, Ramsis Ahmad Abu Shanab, another travel businessman, says many Kuwaitis, looking for fine weather and panoramic scenery, are favoring Bulgaria. And, the travel agencies are interacting with the clients' desire by organizing direct flights between Kuwait and Sofia. Kamal Kabsha, a tourism expert, said a number of citizens have chosen Dubai, Istanbul and Salah for

TRIO SENTENCED FOR FUNDING IS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The criminal court yesterday sentenced a citizen and two expatriates to 10 years in prison over charges of supporting and funding IS, as well as purchasing weapons for the organization.

Illegal fishing

The court of misdemeanors yesterday

fined a citizen KD 5.000 for violating Environment Public Authority (EPA) rules and regulations by fishing in restricted areas of Kuwait's territorial waters.

Citizenship withdrawal annulled

Lawver Bassam Al-Assoussi announced that the administrative court annulled the withdrawal of his client's citizenship and mandated the authorities to reinstate it to him.

AMIR FULLY AWARE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ: ISCI CHIEF

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is following up closely and fully aware of the situation and developments in Iraq, said the visiting leader of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) Ammar Al-Hakim.

Hakim made the statement during a press conference on Sunday at the headquarters of the Kuwait Journalists Association, adding he was glad to visit Kuwait again, despite 'exceptional conditions' his country is going through.

It is a chance to meet His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, National Assembly Speaker and senior Kuwaiti officials to hold talks on the latest developments in Iraq, and on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations as well as regional and international situations and their repercussions on the two sides, he stated.

He noted that both Iraq and Kuwait have similar destiny and conditions, as what is going on in Iraq has an impact on Kuwait, stressing that maintaining stability in Iraq will lead to stability in the whole region, mainly Kuwait.

Hakim said that the situation in Iraq is witnessing breakthroughs, although there is a confusing image, indicating that there are some positive steps, especially those pertaining to the dossiers of security and extremism. He noted that the so-called Islamic State group has become an enemy not only of Iraq, but also of the whole region and its nations.

He affirmed that when Iraq makes progress and achieves victories over terrorists, it then fights against the terrorism on behalf of its Arab and Muslim brothers and the whole world, laud-



KUWAIT: Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) Treasurer Adnan Al-Rashed (right) speaks during a press conference with leader of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraa (ISCI) Ammar Al-Hakim, at KJA on Sunday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ing the recent liberation of Falluja City by the Iraqi forces from the so-called Islamic State.

The city was liberated in a record time, thanks to big efforts and a well-done military plan as well as the close coordination among Iraqi military forces, he said. The Iraqi forces seek to liber-

ate the rest of areas in Falluja, and then moves to the cities of Mosul and Nineveh, the second largest city in Iraq, which the IS announced its capital, he pointed out. Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi announced on Friday the liberation of Falluja. —KUNA

KFH-BAHRAIN FINANCES CONSTRUCTION OF 3,000 RESIDENTIAL UNITS AT DEERAT AL-OYOUN PROJECT

MARZOUQ: KFH SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, ECONOMIC GROWTH IN BAHRAIN



Chairman of KFH and KFH-Bahrain Hamad Al-Marzouq (left) attends the inauguration ceremony of the project.

Chairman of KFH and KFH-Bahrain Hamad Al-Marzouq gives an explanation about the Project to Bahraini Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

MANAMA: "Kuwait Finance House (KFH) supports the initiatives that meant to attract innovative projects, boost the economy in the Kingdom of Bahrain and contribute in offering ideal housing to the Bahraini citizens. Such projects will be constructed to the highest specifications to include wide range of integrated services, infrastructure, a transport network, mosques, electricity and water, commercial and entertaining facilities, in addition to educational institutions," said Chairman of KFH and KFH-Bahrain, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq.

He added, during the groundbreaking ceremony that was hosted to mark the start of construction for the new 'Deerat Al-Oyoun' and the inauguration of Mazaya program

under the patronage of the Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Construction and Infrastructure, Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, in the presence of the Minister of Housing Basim Al Hamer and number of CEOs and top Ministry officials and respected VIP guests, that the remarkable keenness of the Kingdom of Bahrain to support the residential projects and offer services to its citizens reflects positively on the Bahraini individuals, while increases the chances of financing from banks and financial institutions.

Marzouq said that the Deerat Al-Oyoun is located in Diyar Al-Muharraq that will undertake all construction works for the project, indicating that KFH-Bahrain is a key share-

holder in the Diyar Al-Muharraq project along with other local participating banks. Diyar Al-Muharraq is among the projects undertaken by private sector in favor of the Ministry of Housing which comes as part of the partnership between banks, real estate development companies and the Ministry of Housing as part of Mazaya program.

The 'Deerat Al-Oyoun' community will comprise 3,100 residential units built on a land area of 1.2 million square meters on the South side of Diyar Al-Muharraq as per the agreement signed by the Kingdom of Bahrain represented by the Ministry of Housing and Diyar Al-Muharraq of a value over \$730 million. It is worth noting that the foundation stone laying ceremony marks the start of

construction for the new project, and the anticipated date for the Project's completion is the end 2017.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa said "the Kingdom of Bahrain has gone through different circumstances, primarily the widening of the gap between supply and demand which resulted in more pressure on the waiting list of the residential units". He added that such circumstances comprised an impetus for further development, yet necessitates seeking innovative and unprecedented solutions for continuing the service. This required revising the policies and criteria to encompass wider base of citizens.

Speaking on this significant occasion, the Chairman of Diyar Al-Muharraq, Abdul

Hakeem Al-Khayat said: "Diyar Al-Muharraq is proud to be playing an integral part in supporting the efforts of the Ministry of Housing in its quest to continuously improve Bahrain's social housing provisions. The realization of this ambitious Project will undoubtedly fuel future collaboration between the public and private sectors which is crucial in supporting the Ministry of Housing in its mandate to further increase the availability of housing and facilitate accessibility of quality residences for Bahraini families." He said that this initiative comes in conjunction with Diyar Al-Muharraq's endeavors to offer developed residential community that meet citizens ambitions.

TWO ARRESTED FOR IMPERSONATING AS POLICE DETECTIVES, ROBBERY

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Police detectives solved a number of cases that were shelved involving unidentified culprits by arresting two citizens for impersonating as detectives and for robbery. Case papers indicate that detectives had received several reports about robberies in various areas and that investigations led to two citizens who confessed and pleaded guilty as charged. Moreover, one of the two suspects was found wanted over drugs and financial claims. Both suspects confessed to impersonating as police detectives to commit robberies in Farwaniya, Rabiya, Firdous and Jahra, taking the total number of cases that had been shelved and were reopened to eight.

Municipality crackdown Kuwait Municipality's public





two people it said were arrested yesterday on charges of impersonating as detectives and robbery.

relations department announced closing down a store by the Capital municipality inspection teams for operating without a license. The department added that as part of

the 'Your Health Matters to Us' inspection campaign on various foodstuff stores including those selling Girgian items, the Capital inspection team closed down a







without a license, confiscated and

destroyed 10 kg of nuts and filed

nine citations including for selling

expired foodstuff and hiring labor-

ers without having proper health

certificates. The department also

urged all consumers to report any

expired foodstuff by calling the

Traffic campaign

inspection campaigns in various

areas around Kuwait during the

period of June 12-18, said security

sources. The campaigns resulted in

filing 34,201 tickets, impounding

1,463 vehicles, arresting 73

motorists, referring seven expats to

deportation for driving without a

driver's license and finding eight

vehicles that had been reportedly

involved in robberies.

Traffic police launched several

hotlines 139 or 1855555.

MUNICIPALITY'S REQUEST TO HIRE **EXPATS REJECTED**

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Civil Services Commission (CSC) rejected a request by Kuwait Municipality to appoint 16 expatriates in various jobs as accountants and engineers and demanded replacing them with Kuwaitis. Notably, CSC has issued a decision banning the appointment of non-Kuwaitis through it, and stressed that to appoint a non-Kuwaiti of a certain specialty in certain jobs, the matter has to be referred to CSC to study and decide on each case separately.

NAVY TO CONDUCT LIVE AMMUNITION **EXERCISE**

KUWAIT: The naval force will be conducting a live ammunition exercise on June 22-23, starting at 7 am and ending at 5 pm, the Ministry of Defense announced yesterday. The shooting range is 16.5 nautical miles east of Ras Al-Julaiah to Qaruh island and 6 nautical miles east of Ras Al-Zour to Um Al-Mirdam island, a statement by the ministry noted. To ensure their safety, the statement urged sea goers to avoid the area during the announced dates. —KUNA

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HUAWEI HOLDS ANNUAL RAMADAN GHABGA









Civil ID.:

(PBUH) migrated from Makkah?

NO

Ramadan Kareem

O'os and Khaz'raj

YES











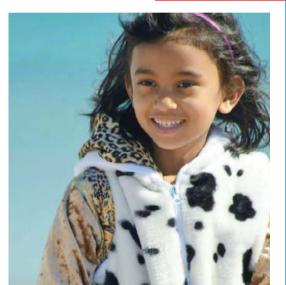
KUWAIT: Celebrating the holy month of Ramadan, Huawei Technologies - Kuwait held its annual 'Ghabga' at the Marina Hotel to gather its employees and their families, partners and members of the press in a warm setting that aimed at strengthening social ties between guests.

Welcoming guests at the beginning of the ghabga, Huawei Technologies Kuwait CEO, Trevor Liu, said: "Each and every employee has a significant role in the success of Huawei today and in the development of the communications sector in Kuwait. I would like to thank everyone for the efforts and commitment to succeeding each day." The evening comprised exciting prizes and raffle draw as well a display of Huawei's flagship and internationally recognized smartphones.

Liu added: "Huawei aims to continue providing Kuwait with the latest products and services. The company also focuses on its partnership with local telecommunications operators to provide a stable and high quality network, as well as develop the fixed fiber network in Kuwait, an important element to the development of other sectors. Kuwait is an important and promising market for the growth of the ICT sector and the enhancement of the digital society. This is achieved by enhancing the connections and communication in Kuwait through the public and private sectors, ultimately connecting the local society and connecting Kuwait to the world."

Huawei Technologies - Kuwait was established in 2015 with a vision to build a better connected Kuwait. Locally, Huawei provides services and consultancy in the fields of communications networks, information technology solutions to enterprises and offers consumer devices ranging from routers to mobile phones.





'Kuwait is my home'

By Ben Garcia

early a quarter of Kuwait's entire population is under the age of 14 and yet with the exception of school assemblies, we never hear their voices. During Ramadan, Kuwait Times likes to publish a special series that engages with its readership in a more direct, personal way to learn their concerns, issues and viewpoints.

This Ramadan, we will chat with some of our youngest readers about their lives in Kuwait, in an attempt to see the world through their eyes. What do they see for the future of our beautiful country? What would they improve and how would they change it? By listening to their future plans, stories, and experience in Ramadan, we can remind ourselves and hopefully our readers of the ties that bind us all together as a species. These are the voice of Kuwait's future and we invite them to share their thoughts with us here.

Dimah Sulaiman Alghais is a 7-year-old studying in Andalous Elementary School.

KT: As a seven-year-old girl, what do you know about Ramadan?

Dimah: In our religion, it is a holy month and we follow Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) teachings to fast and take care of the poor. We also donate and give things to people who are less fortunate.

KT: What is your favorite toy?

Dimah: I like to play with my Barbie doll - she is like a sister and sometimes I see myself in her.

KT: What do you think about Kuwait?

Dimah: Kuwait is a wonderful place to live. This is

Dimah: No, I hate animals and I am scared of dogs, cats and even fish!

KT: Do you have a pet?

KT: What do you love about Kuwait?

Dimah: I love the weather here - both the summer and winter. I like to play outdoors with my friends, especially during the winter in the desert.

KT: What country would you like to visit that you have not visited yet?

Dimah: I would like to go to Italy.

KT: What about the places you have visited. What are the best things that you enjoyed in other countries that are not similar to Kuwait?

Dimah: I visited the Philippines and I loved it there. I liked the variety of tropical fruits. My family and I visited the waterfalls - it is a wonderful place and I want to visit it again!

KT: How are you able to help in household chores?

Dimah: I prepare the table and my mother teaches me to clean my room and make it look tidy all the time.

KT: What are you doing during the school break? **Dimah:** I play with my sisters and spend more time with my gadgets, playing computer games.

KT: What are the best places in Kuwait? Why are

they beautiful to you? Dimah: I like the desert because I can play and run

KT: What do you love the most in the month of Ramadan?

Dimah: I love to eat the food my mother prepares!

If you would like your child to be interviewed for this special series, please email us at local@kuwaittimes.net





KUWAIT: Palestinian Ambassador Dr Rami Tahboub is pictured with honored student during a ceremony organized by the embassy on Sunday. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Guests attend the event.

PALESTINIAN EMBASSY HOSTS GHABQA, HONORS STUDENTS

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Embassy of Palestine hosted a ghabqa and honoring ceremony for top Palestinian students on Sunday at the Sheraton Hotel. Palestinian Ambassador Dr Rami Tahboub congratulated top students and graduates of the General Secondary School Certificate for the year 2015/2016, wishing success, good luck and progress to them in their educational life and hoping they obtain higher education certificates and contribute to building their country.

Tahboub said Khalid Al-Begain, President of Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST), will give the top Palestinian student, who scored 95 percent, a grant that will cover 50 percent of tuition fees in any of the following majors - Bachelor in Communications Engineering, Bachelor in Computer Engineering or Bachelor in Computer Science.

He added that officials and other countries also offered grants and scholarships for the graduate students. Tahboub extended his gratitude and appreciation to all parents and teaching and administrative staff of all schools of the ministry of education in Kuwait for their support and assistance to their students who were able to achieve the best results.

The ceremony was attended by ambassadors, a number of officials and the Palestinian toppers with their families. At the end of the event, Tahboub honored the distinguished students.



Palestinian Ambassador Dr Rami Tahboub delivers a speech.



Poet Mohammad Amin Omar recites a poem.



Student Zaid Emad Ahmed speaks on behalf of the honored students.









Palestinian Ambassador Dr Rami Tahboub welcomes Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mohi Al-Deen Salim Ahmed.













Crime

Report

DEALER PLANNED TO BRIBE OFFICER TO SMUGGLE DRUGS TO INMATE

KUWAIT: A joint operation by a central prison lieutenant and Jahra detectives resulted in arresting a bedoon man trading in drugs from his Sulaibiya house. He was planning to provide a prison inmate with drugs by bribing the officer. A security source said an officer at the reform institution told Jahra detectives about a central prison inmate offering him a KD 1,500 bribe to allow in drugs and mobile phones from a bedoon. A warrant was obtained to arrest the bedoon in cooperation with the officer. The detectives installed cameras with video and audio inside the officer's car after both sides agreed on the place and time of the exchange. The officer waited for the bedoon in the Qairawan Co-op Society parking lot. The latter got in the car and gave the officer a pack of cigarettes with "chemical" drugs inside. When detectives rushed to the car, the suspect snatched the pack and fled. Detectives chased and arrested him following violent resistance. They found the cigarette pack, two black envelopes and two mobile phones. Six more bags were found in his house, with 50 empty bags having chemical residue in them, as well as KD 1,160, which was the price of the drugs sold. The suspect confessed and was sent to concerned authorities.

Fraud

A Canadian woman pressed charges against a female member of the ruling family, saying she entrusted her with a house bought and registered in her name, with an agreement to transfer it to her. But she was surprised by the 'sheikha' selling it few days ago. A security source said the Canadian woman went to Bayan police station and told them that she bought a house and registered it in her friend's name, so she can transfer it whenever needed, based on an official contract between the two. But the accused sold the house, contrary to the agreement. Police are investigating. Separately, a citizen was swindled by KD 12,000 by a Syrian expat, who was his partner in a construction tool business. The citizen told Fintas police that he had a partnership with the Syrian but was surprised by the Syrian withdrawing KD 12,000 from the company account and disappearing. Police are working on the case.

Addicts caught

Farwaniya police found a citizen who was on drugs and sleeping in his car in the parking lot of a school. They found 94 illicit tablets along with eight unidentified pills. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department. Meanwhile, Mubarak Al-Kabeer police arrested a citizen who parked his car on the road shoulder in Qurain after consuming a large amount of drugs. The arrest was made when a police patrol noticed the car was parked suspiciously, then found the driver in an abnormal condition. He was searched and found a hashish joint and a shabu envelope.

Bitter ex charged

A female citizen accused a man of insulting and threatening her after she dumped him and refused to meet him. She said she knew the man for some time, then differed with him because he was interfering in her life, so she broke up with him two months ago. The source said that the woman, in her 20s, was surprised by his call two days ago, which she did not answer. He then sent her a message, to which she replied. He asked to meet her, and on refusing this, he insulted her and threatened to harm her. Police are investigating.

Liquor factory closed

Ahmadi police closed down a large factory in Wafra producing homebrewed liquor. They arrested an Indian man reported absconding by his employer who ran the place, along with four other compatriots who worked for him. A total of 260 barrels full of liquor in addition to 800 bottles were found at the scene. An imported bottle of liquor was also found. Police discovered that the factory owner does not drink the liquor that he makes, but drinks the imported ones. The five men were sent to concerned authorities. — Al-Rai

News

In brief

Judiciary aware of IS threats

KUWAIT: The Supreme Judicial Council takes seriously reports suggesting that the Islamic State (IS) has threatened with harm a number of Kuwaiti judges who made rulings in the Al-Sadeq Mosque's blast case, in which IS members stand for trial, President Chancellor Yousuf Al-Mataw'ah said. "A coordination is in place with the Interior Ministry to face this kind of threats, in parallel with efforts to provide necessary security for judges," said Mataw'ah, who is also the president of the constitutional and cassation courts. "Judges will not be phased by these threats from carrying out their duties fully," he added. A number of social media accounts had reported that IS could target counselors Mohammad Al-Duaij and Salem Al-Khudhair after they made rulings convicting some of its members for their activity in Kuwait. —Al-Jarida

Opposition decides after holiday

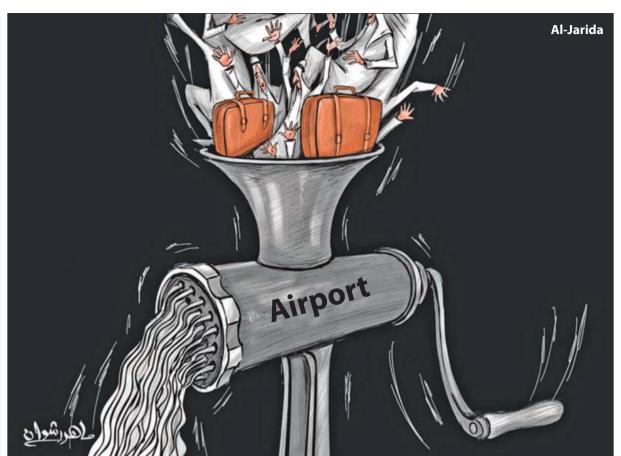
KUWAIT: A bloc that comprises members of the political opposition which boycotted the past two parliamentary elections has postponed making a decision with regards to participating in next summer's elections until after the Eid Al-Fitr holiday. Fifteen Majority Bloc members met Saturday night at former speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun's dewaniya and discussed the prospect of participating in the 2017 elections, sources said, adding that the bloc is expected to announce its final decision after the holiday. —Al-Anbaa

Airport security boosted

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry has launched plans to beef up security at Kuwait International Airport, as it opened more than 32 passenger counters. It also sped up inspection mechanisms by increasing the luggage search process from 1,500 to 2,000 bags an hour; searched through 13 new devices that entered services last Sunday. — Al-Rai

Air guns banned at markets

KUWAIT: The interior and commerce ministries agreed to ban the sale of air guns in supermarkets and co-op societies, and instead limiting their sale to 15 licensed gun shops in Kuwait. The decision came during a recent meeting that the two ministries held to discuss the gun's threat since its shots can be fatal if fired from close range. Air guns are often imported and used in Kuwait by bird hunters. — Al-Rai



الانياء

Al-Anbaa

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

By Saad Al-Motesh

ome statements may not be old enough to be recognized as sayings or proverbs well-known by everybody. Yet they might be a sight be a everybody. Yet they might have more effect than the ancient proverbs, because they tell real-life stories that we must pay attention to, because unless we learn our lessons from them, those who do not comprehend them will no longer deserve to be described as sane.

One of these unforgettable sayings was by a very old man: "So, I have told you about days of hunger we have been through and hope that a day will come when you tell your grandchildren about the blessings you have experienced!" I swear to Allah that this saying has moved me to tears because the moral lesson it implies is heartbreaking.

That saying makes us wisely think how to preserve Allah's blessings and keep them from reaching the point the old man warned us of. I am sure that if any of

you searches for a way to avoid it, you will only find one possible way to do it. This way might be both easy and difficult at the same time because Almighty Allah said "Blessings last when we are thankful for them". Being thankful should not only be expressed in words, but also by actions. All words of gratitude will not free those who look down upon Allah's blessings and question

There is another impressive statement made by a Yemeni tribal chief: "I used to support scores of orphans every year but now I am looking for someone to support and take care of me in any Arab country." I will not explain this statement because it speaks for itself and is too eloquent to need any explanation. Those who fail to understand it should seek the help of a veterinarian and get vaccinated against foot and mouth disease!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) sponsored a girgian festival organized by the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, under the patronage of Governor Ahmad Al-Rujaib. The event took place recently at the Social **Development Hall in Adan.**

THANK THE WRITERS **ASSOCIATION**

By Khalid Al-Tarrah

was applauded by my dear friends Dr Khalifa Al-Wuqayan, Dr Adel Al-Abdelmoghni and Secretary General of the Kuwait Writers Association Talal Al-Rumaidhi on my column titled "Ministry of Muzzling Mouths (formerly Social Affairs)" with regards to a poetry recital in solidarity with the innocents of Aleppo.

I do not deserve praise for the column for two basic reasons. Firstly, the Kuwait Writers Association's statutes do not mention getting prior permission from the ministry of muzzling mouths, especially since the society has a history since 1964 and was founded by dignitaries who maintained the society's mission and incorporated the wishes and longings of the pioneers in the cultural field and knowledge even before Kuwait's independence. As for the second reason, it is in my eagerness on sharing with my brothers in the society their utter resentment over what the poetry recital witnessed.

I do not deserve credit for defending the freedom of writers and expression, as what the society experienced can be repeated in a different way and maybe from other official authorities for various reasons, and this is a new reality in the local arena that saw cultural and political battles over what took place in the form of gaining constitutional democratic gains.

Yet, it is necessary to admit that my stand with the society was the result of a personal understanding with my dear brothers in the cultural movement, and have contributions in the history of cultural development. The extempore decision by the assistant undersecretary for cooperation asking to stop the recital needs repeated reading of Culture in Kuwait's sixth edition of 2014 by Dr Khalifa Al-Wuqayan (Abu Ghassan), which came into existence maybe before the birth of some officials and before the establishment of an authority that ties Abu Ghassan's hand against upgrading his writings, particularly his book on the cultural movement and its historic development, which needs more than one column.

Abu Ghassan shed light on cultural initiatives in which he wrote neutrally and accurately about the stage of cultural initiatives and introducing the principles of the freedom of expression and opinion, before standards were overturned and laws differed, to a point writers and authors became captive to the fear of getting banned legally, though the goals are the same that Kuwait and its people knew since the '60s and earlier.

When I wrote my column, I wanted to move consciences, and particularly that of Minister Hind Al-Subaih in restoring the dignity of the society and its large popular base by apologizing publicly, not behind curtains, and hold those who make spontaneous decisions or use their authority in an uncooperative field! There were no answers from the minister to the society, which is not strange during the period of restricting culture, and may Allah forbid that the society becomes an orphan under the ministry of muzzling mouths or that the ministry comes out with a decision to hold training courses for poets to teach them beforehand what to write!

—Translated by Kuwait Times from



ZAIN SHARES RAMADAN IFTAR MEAL WITH CONTACT CENTER (107) AGENTS

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT RECOGNIZES THEIR EFFORTS DURING HOLY MONTH

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, shared the Ramadan Iftar meal with its Contact Center (107) agents to recognize the efforts they exert during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The event witnessed the attendance of Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan along with Chiefs and Directors from across the company's divisions.

This annual event comes under the umbrella of Zain's strategy to recognize and highlight the tireless efforts and hard work of its contact center agents, especially those who work around the clock all week long to provide the highest standards of customer service to Kuwait's

largest family of subscribers.

Zain's executive management, headed by Roudhan, was extremely keen on being present in the Contact Center (107) operations hall with the employees to share the blessings of the Holy Month of Ramadan with them. The company's Chiefs and Directors were keen on motivating the agents to highlight the most outstanding efforts that contribute to the excellent service quality Zain customers

enjoy today. Through such initiatives, Zain aims to encourage its employees to give their best by uplifting their spirits during the working hours of the Holy Month of Ramadan. The company believes that

such recognition strengthens the workflow mechanism within its workforces and ultimately results in providing better services to Zain customers.

Zain's executive management expressed their pride in the big role employees play in maintaining the leadership position the company enjoys in the Kuwaiti telecom market. The company believes that Human Resources is considered the powerhouse of any organization's success, and providing an ideal work environment for employees is key to allowing them to discover new areas of creativity within themselves.

Zain stressed that it has always been keen to organize a number of social and humanitarian initiatives during Ramadan to support the various sectors of the Kuwaiti society, and the company is keen on reflecting the religious as well as traditional humanitarian values and principles to enrich the art of giving and to increase

bonding between individuals. The company further affirmed its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility campaign during the Holy Month of Ramadan, which includes an extensive array of programs that cover different areas. The initiatives and programs include humanitarian, voluntary, cultural, religious, sports, and recreational activities to cater to the different segments of society.

Kuwait Times nternational

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2016

UN: ROHINGYA VICTIMS OF 'CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY'

Women power leaves Italy's Renzi reeling

IRAN THWARTS MAJOR 'TERRORIST PLOT'



TEHRAN: This picture taken on June 6, 2016 shows a general view of Tehran. — AP

TEHRAN: Iran's intelligence ministry said yesterday it had thwarted a major jihadist plot to carry out bomb attacks in the capital Tehran and other parts of the country, state media reported. "One of the biggest takfiri-Wahhabi terrorist plots was discovered and foiled," the official IRNA news agency quoted the ministry as saying, using terms applied by Iran to Sunni extremist groups. "A series of bomb attacks prepared in various areas deep inside the country and especially in Tehran and some other provinces... were foiled, the terrorists were arrested and a number of ready-made bombs were recovered," it said.

No more details were provided. The ministry said they were interrogating the suspects and more information would come following investigations "both inside and outside the country." The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, told the ISNA news agency the plot included plans for "suicide

attacks in Tehran". Iran, the predominant Shiite power, has been helping both the governments of Iraq and President Bashar Al-Assad's regime in Syria to battle the Sunni extremist Islamic State

Iranian cities have not however faced any

serious threat of jihadist attack, with the country's powerful security forces prioritizing the protection of the country's borders. In November, Iran's army conducted exercises close to its border with Afghanistan designed to simulate how it would respond if "terrorist groups" such as IS mounted an attack. Before the drills in the northeastern province of Khorasan, General Ahmad Reza Pourdastan, the army's head of ground forces, announced a 40 km limit on the borders with Iraq and Afghanistan, which if breached would trigger action. "Before the enemy reaches borders, its actions will be neutralized," he said.

An increased police presence in Tehran in

November and December - with armed security forces guarding subway stations and other public areas in Tehran - raised concerns that an attack was possible. But the capital's police chief, Hossein Sajedinia, said the presence was only part of "counter-terrorism drills". Iranian forces clashed with militants last week on the country's northwestern and southeastern borders, leaving several dead. The elite Revolutionary Guards killed 12 Kurdish rebels in fighting near the Iraqi border on Wednesday that also left three members of the Guards dead.

Police said the rebels were members of the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), an Iranian Kurdish group with close links to Turkey's outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The same day, state television reported that a police officer and five members of Sunni militant group Jaishul Adl had been killed in clashes in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province. — AFP



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RECORD 65 MILLION PEOPLE DISPLACED WORLDWIDE: UN

GENEVA: The number of refugees and others fleeing their homes worldwide has hit a new record, spiking to 65.3 million people by the end of 2015, the United Nations said yesterday. Europe's high-profile migrant crisis, its worst since World War II, is just one part of a growing tide of human misery led by Palestinians, Syrians and Afghans. Globally, close to one percent of humanity has been forced to flee. "This is the first time that the threshold of 60 million has been crossed," the UN refugee agency said.

The figures, released on World Refugee Day, underscore twin pressures fuelling an unprecedented global displacement crisis. As conflict and persecution force growing numbers of people to flee, anti-migrant political sentiment has strained the willingness to resettle refugees, said UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi. "Instead of burden-sharing, we see borders closing. Instead of political will, there is political paralysis and humanitarian organizations like mine are left to deal with the consequences and struggling to save lives on limited budgets," Grandi told reporters in Afghanistan's capital Kabul.

Unprecedented Risk

The number of people displaced globally rose by 5.8 million through 2015, according to the UN figures. Counting Earth's population at 7.349 billion, the UN said that one out of every 113 people on the planet was now either internally displaced or a refugee. They now number more than the populations of Britain or France, the agency said, adding that it is "a level of risk for which UNHCR knows no precedent". "Every 24 minutes a person is forced to choose exile from his home," Grandi said in Kabul.

Displacement figures have been rising since the mid-1990s, but the rate of increase has jumped since the outbreak of Syria's civil war in 2011. Of the planet's 65.3 million displaced, 40.8 million remain within their own country, 21.3 million have fled across borders and are now refugees, while the remainder are asylum seekers. Palestinians are the largest group of refugees at more than five million, including those who fled at the creation of Israel in 1948 and their descendants. Syria is next on the list, with 4.9 million refugees, followed by Afghanistan (2.7 million) and Somalia (1.1 million).

Rising Conflict, Shrinking Solutions

A mixture of worrying factors has led to rising displacement and narrowing space for refugee resettlement. "Situations that cause large refugee outflows are lasting longer," the agency said, including more than 30 years of unrest in both Somalia and Afghanistan. New and intense conflicts as well as dormant crises that have been "reignited" are further fuelling displacement, UNHCR said, pointing to South Sudan, Yemen, Burundi and the Central African Republic, aside from

Beyond the refugee hotspots in the Middle East and Africa, UNHCR said there were also troubling signs in Central America, where growing numbers of people fleeing gang violence led to a 17-percent rise in those leaving their homes through 2015. Faced with an increasing need to resettle those facing persecution, the answers are not always obvious. "The rate at which solutions are being found for refugees and internally displaced people has been on a falling trend since the end of the Cold War," the UN agency said.

"We simply do not have the option



ATHENS: Afghan men jump into the sea yesterday from a dock of Athens's main Piraeus port where hundreds of refugees and migrants live. — AP

of turning our backs and walking away," Grandi warned in Kabul, echoing wider calls among humanitarian chiefs for world powers, especially in the West, to be more welcoming of migrants and refugees. Turkey - which struck a controversial deal with the European Union in March to stem Europe's migrant crisis

- hosted the highest number of refugees through 2015 at 2.5 million, mostly Syrians. Germany received the highest number of asylum requests (441,900) over the 12-month span, demonstrating the country's "readiness to receive people who were fleeing to Europe via the Mediterranean". —AFP



KAMPALA: An linternet user poses in front of a computer screen showing a Twitter post of a digitally altered image of Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza on Sunday. —AFP

BURUNDI SCHOOL KIDS DEFACE PORTRAITS TO DEFY PRESIDENT

NAIROBI: A quiet protest movement is ent of one suspended student. spreading in Burundi's schools where hundreds of students have been suspended in recent weeks for defacing pictures of President Pierre Nkurunziza in textbooks. Scribbling on the presidential portraits contained in government-issue study guides is seen as an act of silent resistance against a regime that clings to power despite more than a year of deadly protests. Entire classes have been suspended for the defiant doodles. 11 have been charged with insulting the head of state and at least four were this week arrested and taken into police custody.

And yet the movement is growing as the government has struggled since early May to stem the acts of "incivility" that security ministry spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye blames on "political manipulation". The phenomenon has spread from the classroom to social media where users compete to lampoon Nkurunziza, mocking up images of him as a pirate, monarch or devil, or changing his name - which means "good news" in Kirundi - to Nkurumbi or "bad news". The ridicule infuriates Nkurunziza's supporters, some of whom say the teasing amounts to treason. But for parents of the suspended school kids the arrests are an overreaction. Schools in Burundi commonly have fewer than 30 textbooks shared by as many as 200 pupils, making it difficult to identify the classroom political artists. "Nobody has their own book," said the par-

'National Protest Movement'

Emmanuel Niyungeko, the Nkurunziza loyalist who governs Muramvya where the 11 students were charged on June 3, justified the harsh punishment by saying the king is second only to God. "The king of Burundi today is President Nkurunziza," he said. Some argue the crackdown has encouraged the defiance. Alice Hakizimana, a well-known television host who now lives in exile, wrote on her Facebook page that "blind repression" has turned something "that began with a handful of schoolchildren into a national protest

Even some inside the regime believe the classroom scribblers are being badly handled. "The way this crisis is being managed is the real national disaster," said one member of the ruling party who did not want to be named. Burundi's political crisis began when Nkurunziza decided to run for a third-term last year, a move his opponents said was unconstitutional. Street protests and a failed coup followed, but in July Nkurunziza was re-elected. The sporadic violence has not ceased and it is thought that over 500 people have died while around 270,000 have fled the country, becoming refugees. Many opposition leaders as well as members of civil society and the independent media have gone into

ISRAEL MINISTER UNAPOLOGETIC FOR 'PROFILING' OF MUSLIMS

JERUSALEM: A senior Israeli official justified the "profiling" of Muslims as potential security threats yesterday after US presidential candidate Donald Trump said Americans should adopt Israel's disputed practice. Arabs, who make up a fifth of Israel's population, and Palestinians living under Israeli occupation have long complained of being singled out for scrutiny and searches at security checkpoints when going about their routine activities.

Trump, the Republican frontrunner who has been buoyed by Americans' worries about Islamic militancy, said on Sunday he believed that "profiling is something that we're going to have to start thinking about as a country". "You look at Israel and you look at others, and they do it and they do it successfully," he told CBS' "Face the Nation". Asked about the remarks, Israeli Transportation and Intelligence Minister Yisrael Katz declined to discuss the US election campaign but was unapologetic about Israel's methods.

"Ultimately these (security) apparatuses ... must build a profile of characteristics as to where the danger comes from and locate it," he said in a briefing to foreign journalists arranged by the Israel Project advocacy group. "It is not the whole population, but sometimes when there is a specific form of terrorism, you can seek out Islamic terrorism only among Muslims."

Trump has called for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States, a suspension of immigration from countries with "a proven history of terrorism" and for greater scrutiny of American mosques. Some US security officials, including FBI director James Comey, have chafed at Trump's suggestion that American Muslims do not do enough to report potential militants in their midst.

"I personally have been called by (Muslim) community members about several things, very significant things," Michael Downing, deputy chief of the Los Angeles Police Department and head of its Counterterrorism and Special Operations Bureau, told Reuters last week. "What we say to communities is that we don't want you to profile humans, we want you to profile behavior." But Katz, who confers with foreign counterparts, said "profiling" on the basis of ethnicity was a de facto US practice. "The United States does do this, by the way, beyond the debate over whether they refer to terrorism as 'Islamic' or do not refer to terrorism as 'Islamic", he said. "Contrary to the Europeans, who do not do either some of them neither define (potential threats) nor take this action - the Americans do do it, and do know how to take action, and they do this activity." — Reuters

HOW GAS CAN WARM TIES BETWEEN ISRAEL, TURKEY

Erdogan meets Israeli energy minister

rity summit in Washington in March, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held a private meeting with Israel's energy minister, Yuval Steinitz. It was the highest level contact between Israel and Turkey since diplomatic relations broke down six years ago after Israeli forces raided a Turkish ship bound for Gaza, killing 10 Turkish activists.

The meeting, which lasted 20 to 30 minutes and whose details have not been previously disclosed, discussed the war in Syria, Iran's presence there, terrorism - and natural gas. That last item is a key driver of efforts to forge a rapprochement between Israel and Turkey: At stake are reserves of natural gas worth hundreds of billions of dollars under the waters of Israel and Cyprus. To exploit them Israel will likely require the cooperation of Turkey.

In an interview at his office in Jerusalem, Steinitz confirmed the Washington meeting. "It was in a very good atmosphere," he said. "I don't want to say more than that ... I'm a great proponent of this effort to resume diplomatic relations with Turkey." Since the Washington meeting, high-level envoys from Turkey and Israel have talked privately in Geneva and London to hammer out a deal on restoring relations between the former allies. Discussions have at times become bogged down: Israel wants Turkey to cut ties with Hamas representatives based in Turkey; Ankara wants reassurances on providing aid to Palestinians in Gaza, among other things.

A senior Turkish official said he was not aware of the meeting and said it would have been outside normal protocol for a president to meet a minister. Overall, though, Israeli officials believe an agreement can be reached in the coming weeks. "We have resolved 80 to 90 percent of the difficulties, or gaps, and now with a little bit of goodwill and flexibility on both sides we can reach the remaining items," Steinitz said. "I think we are pretty close (to normalizing relations)."

There have also been positive noises from Turkey. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on June 7 that Ankara was "one or two meetings away" from normalising ties with Israel. However, he did not put a timeframe on the process.

Vast Reserves

Israel and Cyprus, which have increasingly close ties, sit on an estimated 3,450 billion cubic metres of gas buried in the Levant Basin, according to a US Geological Survey carried out late last decade. Those reserves are worth around \$700 billion and equate to enough gas to supply the entire world for a year. And that's only proven reserves. A recent seismological survey conducted by a French consultancy suggested Israel alone may be sitting on nearly three times as much gas as first thought, according to Steinitz. The problem is not just the huge costs of drilling for the gas, but finding a route to deliver it to customers. While a portion of the gas would go for domestic consumption, the vast majority is earmarked for export. Unless Israel and Cyprus can lock in long-term export contracts, the costs of developing the deepwater fields will not be covered and the vast assets may never be fully exploited.

Jordan, which has a peace treaty with Israel, may be a long-run buyer of Israeli gas, but is a modest market. Neighbouring Lebanon and Syria - both sworn enemies of Israel - are out of the question. Instead, Turkey and Egypt, with 80 million and 93 million people respectively, would be a far better fit as potential long-term

An initial plan was to send some of the gas to Egypt, which already has small contracts to buy gas from Israel. But in the past year Egypt has discovered natural gas off its coastline and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi has said he will push ahead rapidly with developing its own energy resources. Steinitz says a deal with Egypt remains an option. But Israel is also turning towards exploring a pipeline to Turkey, both for consumers there and as a connection to Europe. A third option is a Cyprus-Greece-Europe route.

As a result, restoring relations with Ankara is now a linchpin in Israel's strategy to unlock its natural gas wealth. "Turkey would very much like to diversify its energy imports and resources," said Steinitz, when pressed about the restoration of ties between the countries. "They don't want

JERUSALEM: On the sidelines of a nuclear secuto be dependent on one source, or two sources of energy."

Russia Connection

Turkey imports the bulk of its gas from Russia. But Ankara's ties with Moscow are strained, particularly over the Syrian conflict after a Turkish fighter plane shot down a Russian jet last November. In 2015, Turkey trimmed its imports of Russian gas by 300 million cubic metres to around 27 billion cubic metres (bcm) a year, to the annoyance of Moscow. Yet Turkey's rapidly growing economy still consumes 50 bcm of gas a year and demand is set to double over the next seven or eight years, analysts say. Diversifying supply will be important.

"They need other sources, reliable sources, of gas," said Steinitz. "We have an interest to export Israeli gas and to have export options - not to be totally dependent on one country for our exports. So it's a very good opportunity here." Turkish energy companies share that view. Both Zorlu Enerji and a consortium of Turcas and Enerjisa have been in talks with Israel over gas prices and potential pipeline routes, a Turkish industry source told Reuters late last year. "There's a potential of around 30 bcm of gas (a year) there, of which Turkey could buy 8 bcm to 10 bcm (a year)," the source said. Building a pipeline to Turkey or Egypt is about the same distance, around 540 km, and about the same cost, around \$3 billion. Turkey is more attractive because of its position as a gateway to Europe.

The Cyprus Problem

Though Steinitz is hopeful of mending fences with Turkey, regional analysts remain sceptical of a gas bonanza in the East Mediterranean any time soon. "A lot of the talk is pie in the sky," said Michael Leigh, a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund in the United States and an expert on gas discoveries in the East Mediterranean. He believes there are too many political and commercial obstacles to getting the gas out of the seabed and transporting it to markets.

Perhaps the trickiest issue is Cyprus. Since 1974 the island has been split between the Republic of Cyprus in the south and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, after the Turks invaded following a military coup on the island backed by Greece. There are no diplomatic ties between the south, which is a member of the European Union, and Turkey.

Large amounts of gas are located in the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus. If it and Israel are intent on coordinating their export strategy - and if Turkey is to be one of the routes - the divisions in Cyprus must be addressed first, analysts say. That's because at least part of the pipeline would have to pass through Cypriot territorial waters into Turkish territorial waters.

British and Cypriot diplomats have talked hopefully about a breakthrough on reunifying Cyprus, but it remains far from certain. "We can see that there is an alignment of the stars and momentum from both sides," said a senior official directly involved in talks. "The prospects are certainly better than they have been in a very long time. But we cannot say there is a deal until everything is in place."

Even if a deal can be reached, it still may not mean all hurdles are cleared. Leigh, of the German Marshall Fund, pointed out that Erdogan, whose imprimatur is critical to a resolution, has blown hot and cold on the issue. In relation to exploiting the gas reserves, Leigh added: "A resolution of the Cyprus problem is necessary but not sufficient - you need commercial viability, too." He is not convinced the Levant Basin is a reliable investment, given the decline in gas prices and the cost of extracting the gas and piping it to markets. — Reuters

ERDOGAN SHARES RAMADAN DINNER WITH TRANS CELEBRITY

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shared a Ramadan dinner with Turkey's bestknown transgender celebrity hours after riot police broke up an LGBT rally in Istanbul, pictures distributed by his office yesterday showed. The conservative president and his headscarf-clad wife on Sunday shared their traditional iftar meal at the end of the Muslim fasting day with a group of artists including Turkish trans celebrity and actress Bulent Ersoy. Photos distributed by Erdogan's office show the couple sharing a meal with "The Diva", as Ersoy is known in Turkey, at the official presidential residence in the Istanbul suburb of Tarabya

Ersoy, 64, underwent sex reassignment surgery in London in the 1980s. She became a celebrity but also faced verbal and even physical attacks at home. Earlier on Sunday, Istanbul riot police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to prevent a "Trans Pride" event taking place during Ramadan. Several hundred riot police surrounded the main Taksim Square where demonstrations have been banned since major anti-government protests in 2013 - to stop the protest from taking place.

The demonstrators unfurled a rainbow flag. a symbol of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community, and then tried to read a statement but were prevented from doing so by the police. Istanbul authorities said on Friday they had banned the annual gay pride parade set for June 26 to "safeguard security and public order" after a string of bombings around Turkey over the past year, some of them blamed on the Islamic State group, others claimed by Kurdish militants.

Critics have accused Erdogan of leading a creeping Islamisation in Turkey since he came to power as premier in 2003, undermining the secular foundations of the modern republic. He has repeatedly annoyed activists with his comments on sex and family planning, but has generally steered clear of publicly commenting on gay issues. On Twitter, some Turks criticized Erdogan for dining with the trans star just after police broke up the rally. "This country has become a real circus," wrote one user. "This means you can be trans if you don't protest," wrote another. "Erdogan is fine with you so long as you are pro-Erdogan," wrote a third. — AFP



ISTANBUL: This handout photo shows Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, his wife Emine (second left), Turkish trans celebrity and actress Bulent Ersoy (left) and Turkish singer Sibel Can attending a Ramadan dinner on Sunday. — AFP

INTERNATIONAL

UN: ROHINGYA VICTIMS OF 'CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY'

MYANMAR URGED TO REDRESS SITUATION

GENEVA: Widespread and ongoing violations against Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority, including denial of citizenship, forced labor and sexual violence, could amount to crimes against humanity, the United Nations warned yesterday. In a report on the human rights situation for minorities in Myanmar, the UN human rights office said it had found "a pattern of gross violations against the Rohingya... (which) suggest a widespread or systematic attack... in turn giving rise to the possible commission of crimes against humanity if established in a court of law."

The report was published amid hope that Myanmar's new government, steered by Aung San Suu Kyi and her pro-democracy party, will address deep hatreds in western Rakhine State. Tens of thousands of Rohingya are confined to squalid displacement camps after waves of deadly unrest with Buddhists in 2012. UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said he was "encouraged" by statements by the new government in recent weeks.

But, he warned, the fledgling government it had "inherited a situation where laws and policies are in place that are designed to deny fundamental rights to minorities, and where impunity for serious violations against such communities has encouraged further violence against them."

'Entrenched Discrimination'

"It will not be easy to reverse such entrenched discrimination," he said in a statement. Even so, "it must be a top priority to halt ongoing violations and prevent further ones taking place against Myanmar's ethnic and religious minorities." During its year-long probe, his office found "an alarming increase" in incitement to hatred and

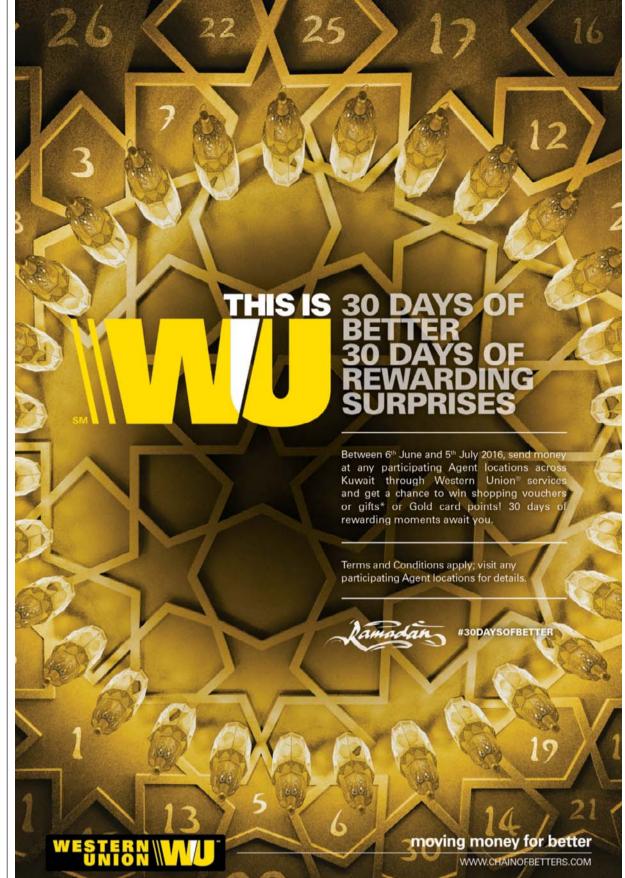
religious intolerance by ultra-nationalist Buddhist organizations against the

Buddhist nationalists have staged protests across the country against even using the term Rohingya. They label the group "Bengalis", casting Myanmar's more than one million Rohingya as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Myanmar's Rohingya population are denied citizenship even though many can trace their roots in the country back generations. Yesterday's report found that in addition to being denied their nationality, state security forces have committed a wide range of other violations against the Rohingya.

These include summary executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture and ill-treatment, and forced labor, the report found. "Arbitrary arrest and detention of Rohingya remains widespread," it said, pointing out that "arrests are often carried out without grounds, formal processing or charges, until release is secured by payment of a bribe."

And Rohingya in Rakhine State need official authorization to move between, and often within, townships, severely restricting their freedom of movement, it said. The restrictions severely impact all aspects of life, including the possibility to make a living, to access education, healthcare and emergency treatment, it said. The report also outlined abuses against other minorities, especially in Kachin and northern Shan States, where armed conflict has intensified.

The deliberate targeting of civilians, using child soldiers, forced labor and sexual and gender-based violence figure among the long list of abuses, with the report warning they might amount to "war crimes". The report called on Myanmar to order an independent investigation into all the alleged violations, and a comprehensive inquiry into the situation of minorities in the country. "We stand ready to support the government of Myanmar in ensuring a successful transition to a society based firmly on the rule of law and the protection of human rights for all," Zeid said. — AFP



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DOZENS OF NEPAL DOCTORS ARRESTED FOR FALSE PAPERS

KATHMANDU: In a nationwide Dibesh Lohani. While a group repcrackdown on medical charlatans, Nepalese police have arrested 53 people for allegedly working as doctors with fake credentials or false education certificates and said Monday that more suspects would be arrested this week. Weekend raids at reputed hospitals, health clinics and medical schools across the Himalayan nation ended with police handcuffing 36 white-coated men and women and taking them away while patients and medical staff looked on. Another 17 had been arrested in February when authorities began the investigation,

called "Operation Quack". The suspects - believed to have presented phony practicing licenses or fake medical degrees when applying for work - are being charged with forgery and face up to five years in prison if convicted, according to Central Investigation Bureau official

resenting Nepalese doctors protested the indignity of the raids, patients said they were appalled and angry about the scandal - even afraid in seeking treatment after learning that some doctors had been entrusted to practice medicine despite not meeting the training requirements. "These people should be given the maximum punishment," said Kusholal Achame, who was waiting yesterday to have a doctor review his latest laboratory reports at Kathmandu's popular Bir Hospital. Another patient at Bir, visibly shaken by the scandal, also said the bogus doctors should be prosecuted. "They may not care, but it has put a lot of people at risk," said Lal Bahadur Pandey, a 68-year-old retired policeman now suffering from kidney problems. "These types of doctors need to be picked out and punished."—AP



IN EU, 'FRENEMY' FRANCE MOST KEEN ON BREXIT

PARIS: From bloody wars to gentle ribbing and occasional cross-Channel bashing, France and Britain's relationship status has been complicated for nearly a thousand years. And as Britain wavers over whether or not to leave the European Union, studies show its old Gallic "frenemy" has a larger proportion of citizens in favor of the Brexit than other members polled. "This shows the relationship between France and Europe today, and the relationship between France and Britain since always," said Dominique Moisi, of the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI).

A series of polls between April and June show that between 32 percent and 41 percent of the population would see their neighbor's departure from the EU in a positive light. The most recent study by the Pew

Research Center showed that the overwhelming feeling across Europe was that Brexit would be bad for the EU, a sentiment felt most strongly in Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany. "France is the only country where more than a quarter of the public says it would be positive for the EU if the UK departed," the report said.

Folkloric Disdain

From the Norman invasion of England in 1066 to political spats over the war in Iraq in 2003, the panoply of Anglo-Franco conflicts have led to the folkloric belief that the two sides cannot abide each other. A favorite anecdote in France comes from when then prime minister Jacques Chirac forgot his microphone was on during a 1988 European summit, while fuming over

Margaret Thatcher's demands for a budgetary rebate for Britain. "What more does this housewife want from me? My b****s on a platter?" fumed Chirac.

However in reality, with so many French people living in London it is nicknamed "Little Paris", ties between the two nations are perfectly cordial these days - a little teasing here and there aside. The biggest bone of contention in recent years has been over the management of a migrant camp in the northern French city of Calais, from where many make desperate efforts to reach Britain.

Growing French Euroscepticism

Analysts say the polls are perhaps more revealing about France's attitude to the EU in general than to Britain. The Pew study revealed growing doubts about the EU in France where favorable sentiment to the bloc fell 17 points between 2015 and 2016, mostly among the older population. Only Greece - hit by the double whammy of the economic crisis and the migrant crisis - was more critical of the EU than France.

The study showed much of the increasing gloom about the EU across the bloc was a result of the handling of the refugee crisis. Those in France who do favor a Brexit come from widely differing political backgrounds, from the anti-Europe far-right to those who want a more integrated Europe and see Britain as an obstacle to this. "There is the impression in France that the British have always been an impediment to deepening the European Union. Intuitively, some tell themselves 'if they leave, we can do more," said Francois Lafond, a professor at the

Sciences-Po university. On the other hand, for the far-right, a "Leave" vote would be a welcome sign of "the beginning of the end". "It means that they can finally demand the same thing," he said.

Far-Right National Front (FN) leader Marine Le Pen said as much at a rally in Vienna on Friday. "France has maybe a thousand more reasons to want to leave the EU than the English," she said. Perhaps the most telling thing about the Pew study, echoing the other polls, is how divided French society is on the European Union. When asked about future of the EU, 39 percent of people said some powers should be returned to national governments. However 34 percent of French people wanted more power transferred to the EU, the largest percentage of any of the countries polled. — AFP

BRITAIN'S 'IN' CAMPAIGN WINNING MORE SUPPORT

LONDON: Carmakers and football chiefs threw their weight behind the campaign for Britain to stay in the European Union yesterday, as opinion polls showing the "Remain" camp gaining ground buoyed shares and sterling three days ahead of the referendum. A senior politician also announced she was defecting to the Remain group, accusing those campaigning to leave the EU of spreading lies, hate and xenophobia.

Britons will cast their votes on Thursday in a referendum that will not only shape the country's role in world trade and affairs but also determine the future of the EU, which has struggled to maintain unity over migration and financial crises. Both sides restarted campaigning on Sunday after a three-day suspension to honor pro-EU lawmaker Jo Cox who was killed in the street by a man heard shouting: "Britain first. Keep Britain independent. Britain always comes first". Opinion polls last week suggested the "Out" campaign had made headway in a debate that has polarised Britain. But polling at the weekend - some carried out after the murder - suggested the "In" camp had recovered momentum. The probability of a British vote to remain in the European Union, implied by Betfair betting odds, rose to 74.6 percent on Monday, up from 60-67 percent on Friday. Sterling rose 2 percent against the dollar yesterday, putting it on track for its biggest one-day gain for more than seven years, while the FTSE was up more than 2.5 percent. Prime Minister David Cameron, who is

leading the "In" campaign, has focused on the economic argument, telling voters that a Brexit would hurt wages and jobs and lead to a decade of uncertainty. His cause was bolstered on Monday by senior executives of several carmakers, including Jaguar Land Rover, Toyota, BMW and Vauxhall, releasing statements urging Britons to stay in the EU.

heir trade body, the Society of Motor

membership, saying would be best for business and British jobs. "We firmly believe Britain would be better off if it remained an active and influential member of the EU, shaping European regulations," said BMW sales chief Ian Robertson. The head of England's top soccer division - the Premier League - also weighed in, saying that its 20 clubs wanted to stay in the bloc. "Are we better acting like we want to play our part in the world and be worldly citizens, or do we want to send a signal to the world that says, actually, we're kind of pulling the drawbridge up here?" Richard Scudamore told BBC radio.

Jo Cox Tribute

The referendum was promised by Cameron in 2013 under pressure from eurosceptic lawmakers from his own ruling Conservative Party, which has been split by the debate along with rest of the country. After the Cox attack last Thursday, lawmakers called for all sides to tone down the rhetoric in a campaign which has become increasingly heated, often pitting colleagues and friends against each other.

Sayeeda Warsi, a former co-chair of the Conservative Party, said on Monday she was switching her support to the "Remain" campaign because of the tactics used by the other side. She pointed to a poster from one of the "Leave" campaigns, which used a photo of refugees walking through a field in Europe under the slogan "Breaking Point" - a message she said she did not want to form "the basis of the kind of Britain that I want to live in and to bring my kids up in".

"Are we prepared to tell lies, to spread hate and xenophobia just to win a campaign? For me that's a step too far," she told The Times newspaper. The "Leave" camp's key argument has been that Britain would be unable to control immigration levels as long as it was in the EU, something that has struck a chord with many Britons who fear that public services are being over Manufacturers and Traders, also backed EU stretched. — Reuters



LONDON: Campaigners hold placards for 'Britain Stronger in Europe', the official 'Remain' campaign group seeking to avoid a Brexit, ahead of the forthcoming EU referendum yesterday. — AFP

BREXIT FEEDS POPULISTS' **AMBITIONS OF POWER**

VIENNA: A vote in favor of Brexit could embolden surging populist parties across Europe hoping to follow in Britain's footsteps and either leave the EU or significantly cut its powers, experts warn. From the Netherlands and France to Denmark and Austria, eurosceptic voices have been growing for some time, and will take succor from a Leave vote by British voters on Thursday. The European Union's nightmare scenario is that Brexit would trigger a domino effect and could ultimately lead to the 28-nation bloc's dissolution.

A recent study by the Pew Research Centre found that over 40 percent of Europeans said they want more power returned to their countries. Dutch far-right MP Geert Wilders, whose anti-Muslim party is topping polls ahead of elections next year, is a leading light in the EU's small but vocal "out" brigade.

'Totalitarian' EU

The firebrand politician has promised to pull the Netherlands immediately out of the "totalitarian" EU in case of electoral victory. His French ally, Marine Le Pen of the National Front, has been less direct in her rhetoric, but nevertheless vowed to hold a referendum on the country's EU membership if she becomes president in 2017. Calling herself "Madame Frexit", she said Brexit would prove that "it is possible to live outside the EU". "France possibly has a

thousand more reasons to want to leave the EU than the English," Le Pen said at a gathering of far-right parties in Vienna on Friday. In Italy, another hotbed of populist resurgence, the far-right Northern League also wants to quit the EU. "If this is Europe, it's better to be alone than in bad company," its leader Matteo Salvini said recently.

The Inbetweeners

But while some simply want out, a majority of populist groups remain less radical in their approach. Instead of leaving, parties like the Alternative for Germany and Austria's far-right Freedom Party (FPOe) want to regain more sovereignty. "We love Europe (but) it needs a good development," insisted FPOe leader Heinz-Christian Strache who has his sights set on becoming chancellor in 2018. Experts note that Nordic countries, where populist parties are now either in government or represent a strong opposition force, are particularly prone to calling a referendum to renegoti-

ate their EU membership. "Small countries that are economically at least as affluent as the UK are the main ones at risk, especially Denmark and potentially also Sweden," said Carsten Nickels of the Teneo analyst group in Brussels. Many Scandinavians fear that the crises battering the bloc will affect the social fabric and standards of their respective welfare states. — AFP



New Rome Mayor Virginia Raggi of the 5-Star Movement attends a press conference in Rome early yesterday, soon after being elected. — AP

Women power leaves ITALY'S RENZI REELING

5-Star makes breakthrough in mayoral vote

reverses that saw female mayors from the populist Five Star Movement (M5S) elected in Rome and Turin. Virginia Raggi's triumph in Rome made her the first female leader of the capital since it was founded over two and a half millennia ago. And it was a win based on exactly the kind of prochange platform and mood that had, until now,

underpinned Renzi's popularity. In his first reaction to Sunday's losses, Renzi made light of the setbacks, stressing big regional variations and arguing that the gains for M5S reflected a desire for change that his government shared. "Those who won yesterday were those who knew best how to reflect this longing for change," he said. The ruling council of his Democratic Party (PD) will hold an inquest into the result of the vote on Friday. Analysts saw the outcome as worrying for the premier because the landmark victories were achieved by M5S securing the backing or the abstention of anti-Renzi forces encompassing the far-left, the far-right and the centre right.

The redrawing of Italy's political landscape came four months before a crucial referendum on constitutional reform. Renzi has vowed to quit if he loses the vote on streamlining Italy's parliamentary and electoral systems. "The government will help all (the newly elected mayors) to try and do good. And we will move forward to take care of our institutional priorities," he said yesterday. Economist Lorenzo Codogno commented: "The bottom line is that the PD is losing ground in

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi was favour of anti-establishment parties." Codogno home in a more traditional fight with a centre-"more hands-on and pragmatic" breed of M5S politician which could make the party more elec-

'Rexit' Chaos?

Roberto D'Alimonte, director of political science at Rome's LUISS university, said Renzi should be concerned by the results. "It makes the referendum in October more complicated," he said. "If the constitutional reform is not approved there will be a 'Rexit' (Renzi's departure) and chaos will ensue. Instability in a country with debt at 130 percent of GDP will pose a very big problem for Europe." Both the new M5S female mayors are successful career women from well-heeled backgrounds. They ran campaigns which largely avoided national issues such as the party's support for a referendum on leaving the eurozone. And their sober tone contrasts markedly with the ranting of M5S's acerbic figurehead and founder, comedian Beppe Grillo. The victory in Rome surpassed all expectations with Raggi, 37, taking 67 percent of the votes cast in a run-off against the PD's Roberto Giachetti. In Turin, where the antiimmigrant, anti-EU Northern League is an influential player in local politics, Chiara Appendino, 31, claimed just over 54 percent to oust long-serving

PD heavyweight Piero Fassino. The only consolation for Renzi was that the centre-left held on to Milan, where the former World Expo director Giuseppe Sala squeezed

left reeling yesterday after stinging local election said the vote also marked the emergence of a right rival. Centre-left candidates also claimed anticipated wins in Bologna and Naples. "For the first time Rome has a female mayor in an age where equality of opportunity remains a mirage," Raggi said in a victory speech. The career lawyer, a mother of one who is separated from her husband, promised to restore legality and transparency to the city's institutions.

'Mission Impossible'

Appendino, a multilingual businesswoman who helps run her family's laser equipment company, struck a similar note. "We have made history," she said. "This was not a protest vote, it was about pride and change." Raggi was virtually unknown a few months ago and has no experience of running anything. But she ran a shrewd campaign that tapped into deep reserves of anger among voters over the dilapidated state of the capital's streets, public transport and garbage management.

Her cause was helped by the ousting of her predecessor, the PD's Ignazio Marino, over an expenses issue and a much bigger scandal over organized crime's infiltration of the city administration. Raggi has vowed to make such abuses impossible and get public services back on track. But LUISS expert D'Alimonte described the challenge facing her as "mission impossible". "Rome is a complicated city and she will have the major handicap of not being supported by the government of the country." — AFP

PUTIN MEETS AZERI, ARMENIA LEADERS

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin met the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan yesterday in a bid to shore up a shaky truce after the worst violence in decades over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Fighting along the volatile frontline of the contested region - seized by ethnic-Armenians from Azerbaijan in a brutal war in the early 1990s - spi-

ralled in early April, killing at least 110 people. A Russian-brokered ceasefire put an end to four days of heavy clashes but tensions remain high as both sides accuse the other of breaching the pact. Key regional powerbroker Putin held a meeting with Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev in Saint Petersburg after first meeting the two rivals separately. April's violence was the bloodiest since an inconclusive truce in 1994 halted the earlier conflict and sparked fears of a return to an all-out war that could pitch regional titans Russia and Turkey against each other.

"Our position on Karabakh is well known: we want this issue to be resolved exclusively peacefully," Sarkisian told Putin. "Unfortunately such conflicts cannot be resolved just through the desire of one side." Meanwhile, Aliyev shot back that the "status quo is unacceptable" as he sat down with Putin. "In order to change the status quo, we need to end the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories," he said. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov conceded that the talks would be "difficult" and said the main task was to make sure there was no "resumption of military hostilities". Moscow has sold weapons to both of the former Soviet nations but has a military alliance with Armenia. Turkey - at loggerheads with Moscow since Ankara downed a Russian jet near its border with Syria last year -pledged its full support to traditional ally Azerbaijan after the latest clashes erupted. Sarkisian and Aliyev agreed to respect the Russian-backed ceasefire in a Vienna meeting with international mediators - including representatives

May. After the 1990s war claimed some 30,000 lives, peace efforts have stuttered to a halt in recent years, and both sides in the conflict began rearming heavily, with energy-rich Azerbaijan spending vast sums on new weaponry. Azerbaijan last week announced five days of major military exercises starting on Sunday near the breakaway region including some



ST PETERSBURG, Russia: Russian President Vladimir Putin (center) meets Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev (left) and Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan. — AP

IN MEXICO, NO WAR BUT MANY INTERNALLY DISPLACED

QUETZALCOATLAN, Mexico: A television wrecked by a bullet, a shirt abandoned on a hammock, pots resting on a stovetop: They're among the belongings that Mexican villagers left behind after gunmen stormed their hamlet. Most of the wood and thatch roof homes in Quetzalcoatlan have remained empty since the January 6 assault on the community, located in a mountain region of southern Guerrero state where opium poppies and marijuana grow in abundance.

Dozens of residents fled in pickup trucks through isolated, rough terrain to find refuge in Zitlala, the nearest town, where they hid in a tiny shelter. They joined the ranks of Mexico's internally displaced, victims of a tragedy that most often strikes nations at war. But in Mexico, and neighboring Central America, gang violence is what's forcing people from their homes. The government lacks official figures, an omission that the National Human Rights Commission criticized last month, lamenting that the issue was not part of the public agenda. The commission documented nearly 1,800 cases, though it said the true figure could exceed 35,000. But the problem could be even bigger. The Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Center says 287,000 Mexicans have been displaced by violence, including 6,000 in 2015 alone.

'Too Scared'

Salomon Lara, a 61-year-old farmer, recalled the day that "several men with 'cuernos' (AK-47 assault rifles)" arrived and "without uttering a word, killed six (men)." Lara lost two brothers and his 23-year-old son in the attack. But he's among the few residents who decided to return to their humble homes. Eleven villagers have remained at the refuge in Zitlala, where they sleep on thin mattresses on the floor of the same room, while others fled elsewhere.

Police guard the shelter and villagers can't venture out on their own. Only one mustered the courage to speak to AFP reporters, briefly. "I don't want to talk about this, please. I'm too scared," said Maria Isabel, who saw her husband - Lara's brother - die at the



LA UNION, Mexico: Women and children displaced by violence from La Laguna village in the municipality of Coyuca de Catalan are seen at their new place of residence in Ayutla de los Libres in Mexico's southern Guerrero state on May 20, 2016. — AFP

entrance of their home made of wood and a thatch roof. Most of the village's 47 ramshackle homes remain empty. The church has no priest or pews. Children have no school because teachers are too afraid to travel the inhospitable road.

Residents believe the assailants came from a dangerous, neighboring village. The motive is under investigation, but villagers say they don't know why they were attacked. The gunmen "said they would come back and kill us," Lara said. "We're afraid." Manuel Olivares, an activist at the Guerrerense Network of Human Rights Organizations, said gangs in Guerrero

seek to forcefully recruit people as hitmen, make them pay a protection tax, or plant opium poppies.

"The pattern of these displacements have been the same: Assaults, actions by organized crime groups against the population," he said. "The reasons vary, but it always has to do with organized crime wanting to expand its territory or fighting over it with others." Quetzalcoatlan lost "everything," including corn fields, goats, pigs and chickens, Lara said.

Amado Lara, the town's leader, who is not related to Salomon, said the government has not fulfilled promises to help improve conditions. "They said that if we

returned, they would fix our roads and pipes, because there's no water here. You have to go down to the river and it's very isolated," Amado Lara said. "Sometimes there are only three or four state police officers patrolling the village," he said. Each night in the homes of the victims, relatives light candles in makeshift shrines with flowers. Salomon Lara makes the sign of the cross in front of his son's altar. "They shot him three times. He didn't die, so they came back and slit his neck," said the father. He wants to form a community self-defense force, like the ones created in the municipality of Ayutla de los Libres in 2013 to combat organized crime gangs.

Murdered at Age 7

Ayutla is now home to some 100 people who fled Coyuca de Catalan after gunmen opened fire indiscriminately on their town in 2011 and set homes on fire. The gang wanted to illegally log trees and plant drugs. Edith, a 25-year-old woman who declined to give her last name for security reasons, saw her father and seven-year-old nephew get shot dead. The child was fleeing along with his mother when the attack started. "They made the boy kneel and told him, 'if you know how to pray, pray, because you're going to die," she recalled as she mixed tomatoes and chilis. "Then they shot him in the head in front of his mother," who was also killed.

Edith now lives in a wooden house on the outskirts of Ayutla, where she raises ducks and pigs. She's expecting her second child, and plans to name him Reinaldo, like her late nephew. Many others took refuge in slum-like homes outside Ayutla. Elvira Valerio, who lives in a mud house, clings to pictures of the life she left behind in Coyuca. Her husband was wounded in the attack, leaving him three bullet scars. "I never want to return," said the 45-year-old woman, tired of waking up from recurring nightmares. "In a dream, I walk far, I see the animals that I raised, and the house that I miss," she said. "I dream about my dead brother-in-law who tells me that we should come with him. And it scares me." — AFP



ORLANDO: The FBI gather early yesterday in front of Pulse Nightclub, scene of the mass shooting. — AP

US SENATE VOTES ON GUN CURBS IN SWIFT RESPONSE

WASHINGTON: WASHINGTON: The US Senate was to make its strongest push in years to tighten gun controls yesterday, voting on four proposals a week after the Orlando shooting massacre prompted new calls to keep firearms away from people on terrorism watch lists. But while the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history has spurred quick action in Congress, none of the bills is expected to achieve the 60 votes needed for passage in the 100-seat chamber, as Republicans and Democrats have not been able to reach consensus on the extent of any new restrictions.

The proposals aimed at strengthening background checks for gun purchases will come as amendments to a Justice Department spending bill. While similar bills failed after mass shootings at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012 and a conference center in San Bernardino, California in 2015, some senators insist the politics over gun control are shifting, with national security looming larger in the debate.

The Orlando gunman, Omar Mateen, pledged allegiance to the militant group Islamic State, or ISIS, as he killed 49 people in a gay nightclub, authorities said. "I admit that the background checks bill is going to be tough to get 60 votes on, but we still have hope that we can get Republicans to support the bill, stopping terrorists from getting weapons," Senator Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat, told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday.

In the Republican-controlled Senate, Murphy led fellow Democrats in 15 straight hours of floor debate last week to demand action on gun control, a move he said "helped galvanize an entire country around this issue." A Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted last week found that 71 percent of Americans favor at least moderate regulations and restrictions on gun sales, including eight of 10 Democrats and six of 10 Republicans. That compared with 60 per-

cent in late 2013 and late 2014. Congress has not passed new gun restrictions since a 2007 expansion of the government's automatic background check database to include individuals with a history of mental illness and felons. The United States has more than 310 million weapons, about one for every citizen. A Democratic congressman yesterday called on House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican, to schedule a vote on a 'no fly, no buy' bill this week before lawmakers go on vacation on Friday. "Paul Ryan has an obligation to at least put that up for a vote. And I believe that if he did, it would pass," US Representative Steve Israel of New York told CNN.

'National Security Issue'

Following the Orlando shooting, Democrats have been pushing a new tactic to try to shift the gun control debate to a national security issue, in part to make new restrictions more appealing to Republicans. Senator Dianne Feinstein, who is pushing a major Democratic proposal to give the federal government broad latitude to deny gun purchases to those under suspicion of terrorism links, said her plan "would have picked up Omar Mateen," who had once been on a watch list.

Some Republicans said the plan goes too far and may trample on the constitutional rights of those wrongly suspected. "Republicans and Democrats should be looking at the rise of ISIS and its ability to communicate with and influence disturbed individuals domestically, which is a national security issue that has not gotten the attention it deserves," said Republican political strategist Rory Cooper.

Likewise, Democrats said that Republican Senator John Cornyn's proposal to require court approval within three days for the government to ban an individual's attempt to buy a gun over terrorism suspicions doesn't go far enough.

A similar bill failed last December, but Cornyn of Texas has said he expects to pick up more Democratic votes because this version does not include provisions to punish so-called "sanctuary cities" accused of not enforcing US immigration laws. National Rifle Association Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, who has opposed nearly every gun control proposal in recent years, has said he supports Cornyn's plan because it "codifies" current practices on terrorism suspicions.

Two other proposals were to get votes yesterday, including Murphy's plan to expand background checks to online sales and those at gun shows and Republican Senator Charles Grassley's plan to boost funding for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and add mental health considerations to the checks.

Some Republican pinned hopes on a compromise proposal by Senator Susan Collins, a Maine Republican. Her plan would restrict gun purchases to a narrower group of suspects, including those on a "no-fly" list or a "selectee" list of people who require additional screening

at airports.
Senator Jeff Sessions, a conservative Republican from Alabama, said he is willing to consider Collins' plan. "I am open to the details," Sessions told CNN. "I agree that, somehow, some way, we should be able to make this work." — Reuters

SIX DEAD, MORE THAN 100 HURT IN MEXICO PROTESTS

CLASHES ERUPT AS TEACHERS PROTEST AGAINST POLICE

OAXACA, Mexico: At least six people were killed, including a journalist, and more than 100 injured in southern Mexico when unknown gunmen opened fire during clashes between police and teachers, authorities said. The violence erupted Sunday as police fired tear gas at protesters to end a week-long barricade of a road in Asuncion Nochixtlan, a town in Oaxaca state, where some vehicles were set on fire. The National Education Workers Coordinator (CNTE) union has been leading protests in Oaxaca for days against an education reform and the arrest of two of its leaders.

The National Security Commission initially denied that officers were armed, charging that news pictures showing them with guns were "false". But federal police chief Enrique Galindo later said that an armed unit was deployed after unidentified people "fired weapons on police and the population." "The teachers were not even involved in these things," Galindo said at a news conference. "There are reports of the presence of various violent groups that have headed the blockades of roads and strategic installations for days," the federal and state governments said in a joint statement, urging the CNTE to distance itself from these unidentified groups.

Bullet Wounds

The six fatalities were all civilians, said Oaxaca state public security secretary Jorge Alberto Ruiz Martinez. Paramedics said that three of the dead had bullet wounds. One was a minor and the other two were 23 and 28. The paramedics spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. It was not immediately clear how the other three were killed. However the mayor of the Oaxaca town of Juchitan de Zaragoz, where similar clashes occurred, reported that a journalist covering the violence plus one other person had been shot dead

Authorities did not specify whether the death toll of six included these two individuals. Another 55 federal and state officers were injured, including eight by gunshots, Ruiz Martinez said. At least 53 civilians were injured.



OAXACA, Mexico: Members of Mexican Federal Police clash with teachers holding a protest against an education reform and the arrest of two of their leaders in this state on Sunday. — AFP

At least 21 people were arrested. The CNTE, considered a radical wing of a national union, denounced in a statement the "repressive action of the federal and state governments."

Many of the injured were taken to the Asuncion Nochixtlan's church before being transferred to hospitals. Several are in "critical" condition, the government said. A municipal police officer, who requested anonymity, said a firebomb was thrown on the town's municipal building. Governor Gabino Cue said the police intervention was needed to restore food and fuel supplies on state roads.

State Capital Tense

Protesters, some wearing masks, also gathered in the tourist city of Oaxaca, the state capital, where they prepared Molotov cocktails and burned material on the street to form barricades

near the central plaza in anticipation of the arrival of police. Shops closed and the streets were deserted. "The resistance is peaceful but we are preparing barricades for the evacuation and excessive repression by the government of President Enrique Pena Nieto," said a spokesman for the CNTE's Section 22 who declined to give his name for fear of reprisals. "They didn't want to have dialogue. They said there was no going back" on the education reform, he said.

The CNTE has staunchly opposed Pena Nieto's education reform, which requires teachers to undergo performance evaluations. The union has also been protesting last weekend's arrest of the leader of its Section 22 in Oaxaca, Ruben Nunez, and his deputy, Francisco Villalobos. Nunez faces money laundering charges, while Villalobos has been accused of stealing textbooks. — AFP

JUVENILE LIFERS AWAIT CHANCE FOR PAROLE AFTER US RULING

PHILADELPHIA: It's been six months since the US Supreme Court ruled that some 2,500 "juvenile lifers" could seek a chance at parole for their childhood crimes, but only a few aging inmates have walked out of prison. Public defenders fear many will need the blessing of a judge, a parole board and perhaps the victim's family, even after Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote that only the "rarest of children" are so "incorrigible" they should never go free.

At least one judge in rural Pennsylvania decided this month that 46 years was punishment enough for a foster child sent away at age 15 for killing a girlfriend while rabbit hunting in 1969. Jackie Lee Thompson, 61, appears to be the first of the state's 500 or so juvenile lifers released since the Supreme Court ruling. "At 15, you really can't know the impact," said Thompson, who is living with a niece in Wellsboro, in north-central Pennsylvania, near where the crime occurred.

"In the later part of the '70s, it really slapped me in the face and made me really starting thinking about what I did," he told AP in a phone interview Wednesday. "It's not just the victim that got affected here. It's the whole community. It's your family." The Supreme Court in 2012 outlawed mandatory life without parole sentences for juvenile defendants and this year said the ruling should be retroactive. That has left some states to devise a review process, and new sentencing grid, for people given the sentence as minors in adult court.

ice as minors in adult court. States with the highest caseloads include Pennsylvania, with more than 500; Michigan, Louisiana and California, with more than 300 apiece; and Florida, with more than 200. For victims' families, the new court hearings can mean another round of grief. "How do you go back 26 years and have a fair proceeding?" said Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins, of Northfield, Illinois, whose pregnant sister and brother-in-law were fatally shot by a 16-year-old in 1990. She leads the National Organization of Victims of Juvenile Murderers. "Nobody in our group thinks that all juveniles should have the books thrown at them for the most minor of offenses ... but there are some that can be very, very dangerous

even as teenagers," she said. In Thompson's case, the victim's sister and elderly father joined about 30 people in court for his June 6 re-sentencing hearing and attended the welcomehome picnic held the next day. He had done everything he could to better himself in prison, earning an associate's degree and mastering several trades, supporters said. "This is precisely the type of case that the Supreme Court of the United States is talking about," said Thomas Walrath, the juvenile defender who represented him. "(He) is a completely different person than the juvenile who committed this act." Neither of the inmates named in the two Supreme Court cases - Evan Miller, of Alabama, and Herbert Montgomery, of Louisiana - have been resentenced, despite the court finding their no-parole sentences unconstitutional. "It's really remarkable, just how difficult it is, even with the clear guidance from the Supreme Court," said Joshua Rovner, who has researched the issue for The Sentencing Project.

Review

In Philadelphia, with 300 of the state's juvenile-lifer caseload, the review process could take several years. Authorities are trying to prioritize the oldest cases, like that of 79-year-old Joe Ligon, who has served 63 years for killing two people when he was 15. "They want him to go before a parole board. I mean, seriously?" asked Marsha Levick, co-founder of the Juvenile Law Center. "It's pointless to keep him in prison." District Attorney Seth Williams believes the law requires the parole board to make the final decision. He said he can't wave "a magic wand" and let people out of prison. One of the two Philadelphia men re-sentenced so far, Tyrone Jones, is eligible for parole after receiving a new sentence of 35 years to life. Jones, 59, has also pursued innocence claims over the years, saying his confession in a 1973 gangrelated shooting was coerced. That could be a Catch-22 if the parole board wants to hear remorse. "You can't apologize for something you didn't do," said lawyer Hayes Hunt, who has worked the case pro bono for years. "We are confident and hopeful the parole board will understand."

Åbout 100 of the juvenile lifers from Philadelphia have been locked up for more than a quarter-century, sentenced when judges had only two choices for first- or second-degree murder: the death penalty or life without parole. —AP

In India's isolated northeast, time for a change

working day begins in northeast India on the longest day of the year, the sun is already high in the sky and the heat is nearing its peak - because clocks across the vast country are set to the same

GUWAHATI, India: By the time the hour. India has just one time zone for its 1.2 billion people, spread from points further east than Bangladesh to the western Arabian Sea. The entire country's time is aligned to that of a town in Uttar Pradesh, which sits near the longi-



GUWAHATI, India: In this photograph taken on June 5, 2016, Indian fish vendors and customers gather at a wholesale local fish market on the banks of the River Bhramaputra. —AFP

tude line closest to centre of the country.

The policy was introduced when the nation gained its independence from Britain, but in the northeast government ministers now say Indian Standard Time (IST) makes little sense. Their region is closer to Dhaka, which is 30 minutes ahead, than Delhi. It shares borders with China, Myanmar and Bhutan as well as Bangladesh. Around the summer solstice, the sun rises at 4:15 am in the far northeast - a good 90 minutes before dawn breaks on India's west coast - and sets at just 6:15 pm.

Campaigners say that has held back the development of the region, home to some of India's poorest states, hitting productivity and adding billions to the cost of lighting homes and offices. "Definitely there is a loss of energy, a loss of workable hours," says Arup Kumar Datta, a writer in the northeastern state of Assam who has campaigned on the issue. "A person is fresher (in the morning), but by the time you go at office at 10 o'clock you have lost that energy."

Worse, campaigner Jahnu Barua believes a policy that was intended to unite a newly-independent India has actually exacerbated the sense of alienation in the northeast, a tribal-dominated region battling myriad separatist insurgencies. "People are not fools," said Bahrua, a northeasterner who has campaigned for decades for a separate time zone for the region. "Slowly they are becoming aware of the rest of the world, and when they realise they have literally been kept in the dark, of course they feel alienated."

Tea Garden Time

Bahrua grew up on a tea plantation in Assam state, where work started at 6:00 am to make the most of the daylight. Some of Assam's plantations still operate on their own time - known locally as "tea garden time" and a hangover from the days of British rule. But Bahrua says most have switched to IST, meaning the backbreaking work of picking tea begins when the sun is nearing its hottest. Akhil Ranjan Dutta, a politics professor at Guwahati University in Assam, says he only became aware of the problem when he moved from the countryside to the state capital for his studies.

"In the village we used to go to bed at seven in the evening and rise at two or three in the morning," he said. "Then I came to college and I couldn't change my habits. My friends would all laugh at me... You can't have a same time zone for a country like India which is so vast. This has to change." The mainland United States, excluding Pacific territories and Alaska, observes four different time zones: mainland Australia has three

and Russia has nine - although China uses just one.

But previous proposals to set up separate time zones in India have fallen on deaf ears. In 2006 India's planning commission said having two time zones would lead to substantial energy savings in a country that frequently suffers power outages, but the central government rejected the plan. When scientists from the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore studied the problem in 2007 they concluded separate time zones would cause chaos, advocating instead a 30-minute advancement of IST.

But one glimmer of hope is offered by the new state government of Assam, which is led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Himanta Biswa Sarma, a senior minister who is credited with winning the state for the BJP, said local lawmakers planned to take the matter up with the central government in Delhi. "They should allow the northeast a separate time zone, because it is becoming an economic waste," he told AFP in Guwahati. "Many people think that this will actually be the beginning of some secessionist movement... there are many counter-arguments. But I believe that India has evolved. We are not in that society now." —AFP

NEPALI GUARDS AMONG 23 KILLED IN AFGHAN BLASTS

KABUL ATTACK HITS MINIBUS WITH SECURITY CONTRACTORS

KABUL: A busload of Nepali security guards were among 23 people killed in a string of bombings across Afghanistan yesterday, days after Washington expanded the US military's authority to strike the Taleban. A Taleban spokesman on Twitter claimed the first attack, which killed 14 Nepali security guards working for the Canadian Embassy in Kabul in a massive blast that left their yellow minibus spattered with blood.

However Islamic State's affiliate in Afghanistan and Pakistan released a competing claim in which they named and pictured the alleged bomber, according to the SITE monitoring group, in what would be their most significant attack in the country. An Afghan intelligence source said officials were investigating the IS claim, which was flatly denied by the Taleban. The Taleban also

claimed a second, smaller blast in south Kabul yesterday that the interior ministry said killed one person.

The bombings were followed hours later by an attack on a market in the remote northeastern province of Badakhshan that authorities said killed at least eight people, with the death toll set to rise. The wave of violence comes 10 days after Washington announced an expansion of the US military's authority to conduct air strikes against the Taleban, a significant boost for Afghan forces who have limited close air-support capacities. Last month the insurgents named Haibatullah Akhundzada their new leader, in a swift power transition after former head Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed in a US drone strike in Pakistan.

Competing Claims

Police said the attack on the Nepali guards was carried out by a suicide bomber on foot early yesterday on a main road leading east out of the capital towards the city of Jalalabad. "As a result 14 foreigners were killed, all Nepali nationals," the interior ministry said in a statement, adding that nine other people were wounded, including five Nepali citizens and four Afghans. The Canadian embassy in Afghanistan confirmed the "cowardly" attack in a tweet, and said that it had employed the guards.

The explosion could be heard across Kabul and a plume of smoke seen above the site of the blast on the Jalalabad road, a main route housing many foreign compounds and military facilities. More than two dozen ambulances rushed to the

scene, an AFP journalist said, with police blocking off the road. The blast also shattered the windows of nearby shops. Nepal's prime minister KP Sharma Oli said his country "strongly condemns" the killings.

Taleban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack on social media, saying it was "against the forces of aggression" in Afghanistan. The Islamic State claim, which SITE said was released on Twitter and Telegram, named the bomber as Irfanullah Ahmed and pictured him armed and dressed in combat fatigues in front of an IS flag. The Taleban spokesman poured scorn on the IS claim. "They neither have the capability to carry out attacks in Kabul, and nor are they supported by people. Today's attack was carried out by one of our mujahideen, and Daesh claiming they did it, is baseless and hollow." Mujahid told AFP by phone, using an alternate name

Ramadan No Deterrent

The Kabul blasts were followed hours later by a motorcycle bomb in a crowded market in the Keshim district of Badakhshan. The provincial governor's spokesman put the initial toll at eight dead with 18 wounded, all civilians. No one has yet claimed responsibility for that attack. Mountainous Badakhshan had been relatively peaceful until the Taleban briefly captured Kunduz city last year, with insecurity spreading into other northeastern provinces.

The resurgent Taleban have been fighting against the Western-backed Kabul government since they were ousted from power by a US-led invasion in late 2001. They have been gaining ground all around the country but IS are also making inroads into Afghanistan, particularly in the east, where they are challenging the Taleban on their own turf. The US State Department listed the local IS franchise, IS Khorasan, as a terror group in January this year. —AFP



PYONGYANG: In this June 18, 2016, image taken from video, So Thae Song (left) and Ri Gum Suk speak to an Associated Press Television News crew during an interview. —AP

PYONGYANG PUSHES CLAIM South abducted women

PYONGYANG: As South Korea's main spy agency prepares a courtroom defense of its continued detention of 12 North Korean waitresses it says fled from China, Pyongyang is using the women's relatives and colleagues to step up its accusations that they were tricked into leaving their jobs and essentially kidnapped. The case has become a bitter point of contention between the two Koreas. Pyongyang claims South Korea's National Intelligence Service abducted the waitresses. Seoul says they came to the South of their own free will and don't want to go back to North Korea.

The women are in South Korean custody and have yet not been allowed to freely tell their story in public. In response to a legal filing by South Korean human rights lawyers, the NIS must prove that the North Koreans are being lawfully detained. A closed-door hearing in the case is set for Tuesday at Seoul Central Court; the restaurant workers are not expected to testify.

On Saturday in Pyongyang, North Korean authorities allowed an Associated Press Television crew to interview some of the colleagues and parents of the waitresses who are now in South Korea. The interviews were conducted freely with no questions submitted in advance, but it is common for authorities to coach interviewees beforehand to make sure they stay on message.

Former waitresses Choe Rye Yong and Han Yun Hui said they worked with the 12 women for more than two years at the North Korean-run Azalea Friendship Restaurant in Ningbo, China. Choe and Han said they chose not to go with them and instead returned to Pyongyang. They did not say exactly what transpired. News of today's hearing has not been announced by the North's state-run media, but Choe and Han said North Korean authorities had told them about it. They said they can't understand why the hearing is closed. "The fact that it's closed means that they don't want to let our colleagues say what they want to say," said Choe, who was the head waitress at the Azalea.

Tens of thousands of North Koreans have defected to South Korea over decades of division. and in recent years North Korea has tried to step up efforts to prevent further defections. Going from North Korea to South Korea has always been complicated by concerns for family left behind, and Pyongyang appeared to be trying to capitalize on those feelings by taking the unusual step of allowing the restaurant workers' parents to be interviewed by foreign media.

Ri Gum Suk, the mother of one of the workers, So Kyong Ah, said all parents involved are heartbroken. Her husband, So Thae Song, said he wants to hear from his daughter directly because he can't believe she would have decided to defect. "They say our children defected, making their own free decision, but then why don't they put our children in front of us parents? I want to hear the words from my lovely daughter. Why don't they let her meet us? They say they defected willingly as a group. I can't accept this," he said.

North Koreans who flee to the South are routinely questioned in seclusion by the NIS to make sure they're not spies. They are then kept for up to six months at a guarded facility where they receive vocational training and learn how to adapt to South Korean life. While South Korea has dismissed the North's claims that the waitresses were tricked or left against their will, an independent group of South Korean lawyers is calling on the justice system to bring the women into court to answer questions about their intentions.

After the NIS and Unification Ministry rejected the lawyers' request to meet the restaurant workers, the group filed for legal action, using South Korean law on habeas corpus to demand judicial review of the North Koreans' detention. Chun Nakbung, a lawyer from the group, said the women are not expected to appear in court today, and that it's unclear when a court decision would be reached. South Korea's spy service said earlier this year that North Korea was running about 130 restaurants overseas, mostly in China. Overall, North Korea has about 50,000-60,000 workers abroad, mostly in Russia and China, with a mission to bring in foreign currency. —AP



KABUL: Afghan policemen look at the site of a suicide attack to have hit a minibus carrying foreign security guards yesterday. —AFP

KEYBOARD WARRIORS: SOUTH Korea trains new frontline

SEOUL: In one college major at Seoul's elite Korea University, the courses are known only by number, and students keep their identities a secret from outsiders. The Cyber Defense curriculum, funded by the defense ministry, trains young keyboard warriors who get a free education in exchange for a sevenyear commitment as officers in the army's cyber warfare unit - and its ongoing conflict with North Korea.

North and South Korea remain in a technical state of war since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armed truce. Besides Pyongyang's nuclear and rocket programs, South Korea says the North has a strong cyber army which it has blamed for a series of attacks in the past three years. The cyber defense program at the university in Seoul was founded in 2011, with the first students enrolled the following year.

One 21-year-old student, who allowed himself to be identified only by his surname Noh, said he had long been interested in computing and cyber security and was urged by his father to join the program. All South Korean males are required to serve in the military, usually for up to two years. "It's not a time burden but part of a process to build my career," Noh said. "Becoming a cyber warrior means devoting myself to serve my country," he said in a war room packed with computers and wall-mounted flat

screens at the school's science library. South Korea, a key US ally, is one of the world's most technologically advanced countries. That makes its networks that control everything from electrical power grids to the banking system vulnerable against an enemy that has relatively primitive infrastructure and thus few targets against which the South can retaliate. "In relative terms, it looks unfavorable because our country has more places to defend, while North Korea barely uses or provides Internet," said Noh.

Last year, South Korea estimated that the North's "cyber army" had doubled in size over two years to 6,000 troops, and the South has been scrambling to ramp up its capability to meet what it considers to be a rising threat. The United States and South Korea announced efforts to strengthen cooperation on cyber security, including "deepening military-to-military cyber cooperation," the White House said during President Park Geun-hye's visit to Washington in October. In addition to the course at Korea University, the national police has been expanding its cyber defense capabilities, while the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning started a one-year program in 2012 to train so-called "white hat" - or ethical - computer hackers.

North's Cyber Offensives

Still, the North appears to have notched up successes in the cyber war against both the South and the United States. Last week, South Korean police said the North hacked into more than 140,000 computers at 160 South Korean companies and government agencies, planting malicious code under a long-term plan laying groundwork for a massive cyber attack against its rival. In 2013, Seoul blamed the North for a cyber attack on banks and broadcasters that froze computer systems for over a week. North Korea denied responsibility.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation has blamed Pyongyang for a 2014 cyber attack on Sony Pictures' network as the company prepared to release "The Interview," a comedy about a fictional plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The attack was followed by online leaks of unreleased movies and emails that caused embarrassment to executives and Hollywood personalities. North Korea described the accusation as "groundless slander".

South Korea's university cyber defense program selects a maximum of 30 students each year, almost all of them men. On top of free tuition, the school provides 500,000 won (\$427) per month support for each student for living expenses, according to Korea University Professor Jeong Ikrae. The course trains pupils in disciplines including hacking, mathematics, law and cryptography, with students staging mock hacking attacks or playing defence, using simulation programs donated by security firms, he said. —Reuters

HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CHINA 'REBEL' VILLAGE PROTEST

WUKAN, China: More than 1,000 residents of a southern Chinese village that was once hailed as a beacon of democracy in the Communist-ruled country marched in protest yesterday, demanding the release of the village chief who was detained in a weekend raid. The fishing village of Wukan made international headlines in 2011 when it launched an uprising against corrupt former village leaders and land grabs that resulted in provincial authorities sacking the former village chief and allowing fresh elections that saw many protest leaders elected on a landslide.

Villagers gathered near dusk after listening to a speech from a public stage, waving red China flags and calling for the return of seized land and the release of Lin Zuluan, a former protest leader who was directly elected village chief in 2012 and who has since been accused of abuse of power and accepting bribes. More than

100 riot and paramilitary police in helmets and shields watched as the villagers, young and old, streamed around the village perimeter in a long procession, some jeering at the officers as they went and pumping their fists in the air.

"Do not assemble and protest again," notices posted by the regional government in the village read. "Do that at your own risk." The protesters dispersed later in the evening, with another demonstration planned for tomorrow. Lin's wife told reporters that she's spoken to her husband by telephone since his arrest and that he had urged the villagers to keep fighting for the seized land and justice. "It may be even bigger than before if things aren't resolved," said 50-year-old Xie Songbo, referring to the events of 2011 when Wukan barricaded itself for months and ransacked the local police and Communist Party headquarters. —Reuters





DOUMA, Syria: Syrian children take part in a cooking competition to prepare iftar meals during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, in the rebel-held town of Douma, east of the capital Damascus. Most of the children who took part in the cooking activity, organized by the Douma Society and Health Touch organization, have had one of their limbs amputated due to injuries caused by shelling from the ongoing conflict. — AFP

BAHRAIN STRIPS A TOP CLERIC OF CITIZENSHIP

DUBAI: Bahrain has stripped the spiritual leader of the kingdom's Shiite Muslim majority of his citizenship, state news agency BNA reported yesterday, and there were reports of a protest outside his house. The move against Ayatollah Isa Qassim comes less than a week after a court ordered the country's main opposition Al-Wefaq group closed, accusing it of fomenting sectarian unrest and of having links to a foreign power - an apparent reference

The agency, citing an Interior Ministry statement, said Qassim had been trying to divide Bahrain society, encourage youths to violate the constitution and promoted a sectarian environment in the country. "Based on that, the Bahraini citizenship had been dropped from Isa Ahmed Qassim, who since he acquired Bahraini citizenship had sought to form organizations that follow foreign religious and political reference," BNA said. The ayatollah's official website says he was born in a Shiite village in the kingdom

There were reports on social media of a crowd marching outside his house in the Shiite village of Diraz west of the capital Manama. Video footage showed dozens of people chanting Shiite slogans. Bahraini media last week reported that authorities have been investigating a bank account of some \$10 million in Sheikh Qassim's name to examine where it was getting funds and how they were being spent. The move spurred a strongly worded statement from top clerics, including Sheikh Qassim, against

any attempt to meddle with the collection of a Muslim tax called Khums, which is a pillar of Shiite Islam.

The Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy said the move would stoke unrest. "We are deeply concerned that these actions will escalate tensions on the streets and may even lead to violence, as targeting the country's leading Shiite cleric is considered to be a red line for many Bahrainis," Sayed Ahmed Al-Wadaei, Director of Advocacy said in a statement. Bahrain in 2011 crushed an uprising by majority Shiite Muslims demanding reforms and a bigger voice in the Sunni-ruled country, where the US Fifth Fleet is based. Bahrain has stripped scores of people of their citizenship over the past two years, apparently in a campaign to end any opposition in the country. — Reuters



Bahraini top Shiite cleric, Sheikh Isa Qassim

US SIX FLAGS EYES SAUDI

Continued from Page 1

It is unclear whether the theme park company will tailor its rides, which include water slides, to the social codes of a country where public spaces are gender segregated and patrolled by state-sponsored Islamic morality enforcers. Six Flags operates approximately 20 theme and water parks in North America and signed an agreement with a private Ho Chi Minh City based company in March to open two parks in Vietnam. Both Abu Dhabi and Dubai are encouraging the development of theme parks to help boost foreign tourist arrivals as oil prices slump,

MPS WANT APPOINTMENT OF EXPATS IN GOVT...

Continued from Page 1

Head of the Budgets Committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said that certain ministries and government departments fail to abide by guidelines governing the appointment of expatriates by hiring expat employees through recruitment com-

Under this scheme, these companies recruit expats who work for the government but without being counted as part of the civil servants. Abdulsamad said that the value of cleaning contracts has ballooned from KD 59 million to KD 235 million within a short period. He said Municipality officials acknowledge the inflated contracts. He said that recycling is

causing an economic slowdown in the region. — Reuters

the best solution for garbage but government departments

differ whether such a project is profitable or not. In a related development, the Finance Minister also explained that the council of ministers has authorized a study to merge government departments with similar functions. The nine departments and authorities the Assembly approved their budgets include the Agricultural Authority, Public Authority for Youth and Sports, Public Authority for Minors, Kuwaiti Municipality, the National Assembly, Authority for printing the holy Quran and Sunah, Direct Investment Promotion Authority, Public Private Partnership

Authority and Capital Markets Authority. The Assembly will

meet again today to continue debating budgets.

THEMES OF THE QURAN: STORIES OF PROPHETS

Continued from Page 1

Each had extraordinary gifts or events associated with their names, but the essence of each story is the same: they exclusively worshipped the Creator of the universe, and invited others to share the blessings of the wholesome way of life ordained by God. For their sincerity and persistence, they earned status with God, who has made them examples for all believers to follow.

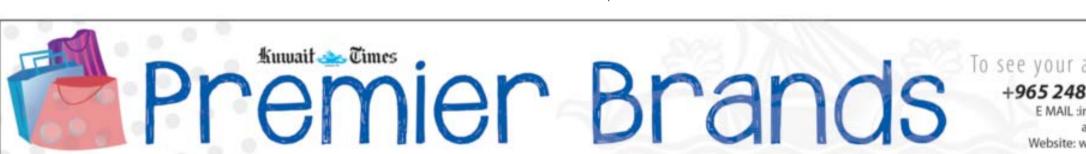
Jesus (PBUH) the son of the virgin Mary is mentioned 183 times in the Quran in verses that present his story from conception to Resurrection, when he will be asked by God, "Did you say unto men, 'Worship me and my mother as two gods besides Allah?' He will reply, 'Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right.... I said not to them except what You commanded me - to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." (5:116-117).

Details of his birth, message to the children of Israel, and ascension to God correct misconceptions that have been passed on for generations. Other prophets mentioned in association with Jesus (PBUH) are his uncle

Zachariah (PBUH) and his cousin John (PBUH). Finally, Messenger of Allah and the seal of the prophets" (33:40).

Although he is mentioned only four times by name, his story is understood by the many verses that are addressed to him, directing him in the many situations that unfolded in his lifetime. From these verses, we follow events that have shaped the Muslim community ever since. But his message was not only for his community in Makkah and Medina. The Quran says, "And We have sent thee not but as a mercy for all peoples" (21:108). If you would like to meet the elite of mankind - the prophets of God mentioned by Him - just pick up a translation of the Quran. You will be in the best of company.

Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.



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Issues

COLLEGE DORMS A NEW BATTLE FRONT FOR TRANSGENDER

By Scott Malone

s lawmakers across the United States battle over whether to allow transgender Americans to use public restrooms that match their gender identities, universities are scrambling to ensure that dorms meet federal standards. At a time of year when the nation's 2,100 residential colleges and universities are sorting out student housing assignments, they also are poring over a May letter from the Obama administration that thrusts them into the national debate on transgender rights. Known as the "dear colleague" letter, it makes clear that federal law protects transgender students' right to live in housing that reflects their gender identity.

Schools that fail to provide adequate housing to transgender students could face lawsuits or the loss of any federal funding they rely on. Although hundreds of universities had begun to offer gender-inclusive housing in response to student demand in recent years, many are now reviewing or expediting their plans so they can provide the option to incoming students for the first time this fall. The policies are intended not only to accommodate transgender students, university officials say, but to help siblings, gay students who want to live with straight friends of the opposite gender or simply groups comfortable with mixed-gender housing.

The May letter from the US Departments of Education and Justice invoked Title IX, the 1972 law prohibiting gender discrimination at schools that receive federal funds. "Title IX and the 'dear colleague' letters make all of us, all institutions, more accountable for students who may be on the margins," said Darryl Holloman, dean of students at Georgia State University, which offered gender-inclusive housing options for the first time in the 2015-2016 academic year.

'Only a matter of time'

There are no official US statistics on the number of colleges that offer gender-inclusive housing, although a count by Campus Pride, a non-profit that focuses on supporting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students in US higher education, found it could be as low as one in 10. The author of that study, Genny Beemyn, director of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst's Stonewall Center, acknowledged the count, which shows just 203 universities, may underestimate the number of schools that offer gender-inclusive housing. "More and more schools are grappling with it," Beemyn said. "It's only a matter of time until this becomes a much bigger issue."

Universities in the Northeast and along the West Coast have been quickest to allow gender-inclusive housing, with those in the South and religiously affiliated schools least likely to do so, according to observers, including Demoya Gordon, transgender rights project attorney with Lambda Legal, an LGBT rights advocacy group. The Association of College and University Housing Officers-International has seen an increase in the number of questions it gets about transgender housing, said spokesman James Baumann.

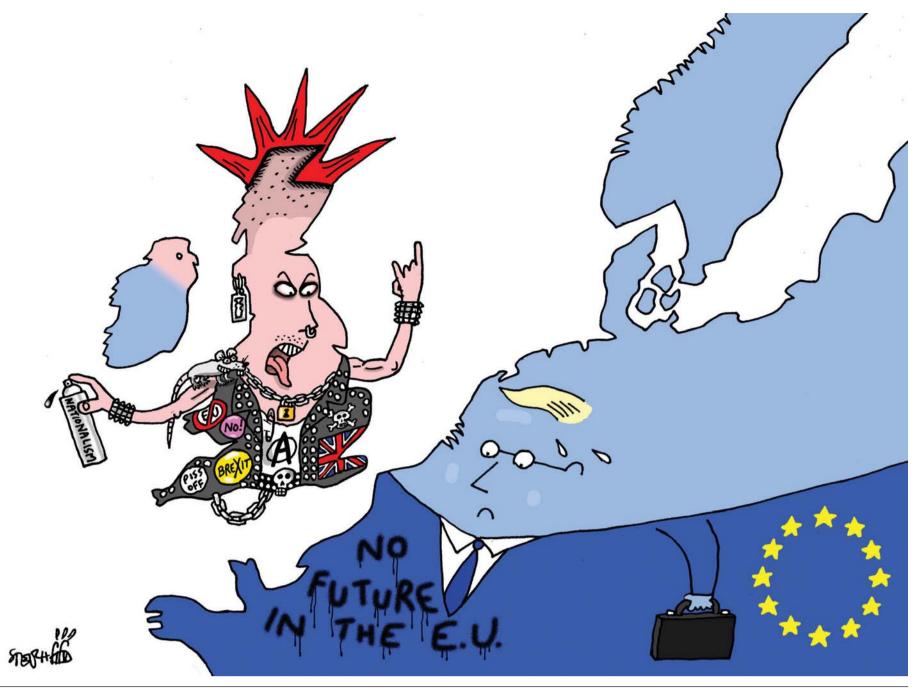
"It is certainly something that has gained momentum," Baumann said. "When I first started 10 years ago the questions was, 'Should we?' And now the question is, 'How can we?'" The same letter that has universities examining their transgender housing policies sparked a broader fight by telling US public grammar and high schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms that reflect their gender identities. Thirteen US states joined a lawsuit accusing the Obama administration of overreaching, attempting to add transgender protections to a 1972 law that never mentioned the subject.

Less opposition

The university moves have been less controversial in part because the population affected is one of the segments of society most comfortable with transgender issues. Some 57 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds told a Reuters/Ipsos poll taken April 14 through May 3 that they believed people should use public restrooms that match the gender with which they identify. That is a far higher percentage than the 40 percent of Americans of all ages who held that view. The poll included responses from 6,723 people and has a credibility interval of 1.4 percentage points.

Few students are choosing gender-inclusive housing. At Georgia Tech's Atlanta campus, 42 out of some 4,100 students housed in dorms sought it last year. When Johns Hopkins University first offered it in the 2014-2015 academic year, 30 out of some 2,500 students enrolled, a number that doubled to 60 the following year. "There are certainly some transgender students for whom it matters a lot but if it's a gay man whose best friend is a lesbian and they decide they want to live together, this is an option," said Demere Woolway, director of LGBTQ life at the Baltimore university. —Reuters

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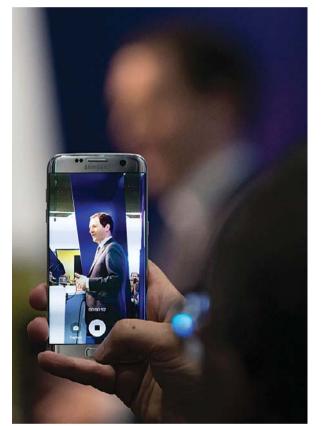
SPECTRE OF BREXIT SPOOKS INVESTORS IN LIVERPOOL

By Patrice Novotny

single question was on the lips of the thousands of investors gathered in the city of Liverpool in northwest England this week: what will happen if Britain leaves the EU? From a small English milk producer to a large Indian employer, no fewer than 30,000 businessmen and women gathered for the International Festival for Business, the largest meeting of its kind in Britain. The UK will go to the polls on June 23 to settle the debate on its continued EU membership. The campaigns for and against were this week thrown into disarray after the killing of lawmaker Jo Cox just seven days before the vote. Polls have indicated growing support for leaving, days ahead of the referendum with markets reacting nervously. "The European referendum is clearly bringing a degree of uncertainty to business markets," said lan McCarthy, director of the International Festival for Business.

"Let's hope that when there is a decisive result toward the end of June, business can get back to what it does best which is developing products and services," he said. The vast exhibition hall on the banks of the River Mersey was buzzing with product presentations, conferences and private meetings, where organizers expect contracts worth £265 million (\$374 million, 334 million euros) to be inked. But in every spare moment, talk turned to the potential fallout of an exit: whether Prime Minister David Cameron's gamble in calling the vote could imperil his political future; and whether a break with Brussels bureaucracy could be positive.

"In case of a Brexit we would have the biggest recession in a generation, but we would survive," said Will Butler-Adams, CEO of Brompton Bicycle, the maker of iconic folding bikes. "For my business I prefer to be in Europe but we would survive anyway, we would adapt." Anyone making predictions about what would happen however, is wasting time, he added. "You can't make figures in advance about the consequences because a Brexit would not happen overnight." International organizations, including the International Monetary Fund, have warned that Britain's economy will suffer if it leaves.



LIVERPOOL: An attendee takes a picture of Britain's Finance Minister George Osborne as he speaks at the opening of the International Festival for Business 2016 at the Exhibition Centre Liverpool. —AFP

'Alone and isolated'

Proudly showing off his antique sewing machine, master leather craftsman Keith Hanshaw said he was not afraid. From his studio in Huyton, in the suburbs of Liverpool, his small company The Leather Satchel exports bags as far as Japan and Australia. "In the short term, nothing good would come from a Brexit. But on a medium to long term, it could help to sign free-trade agreements," said Hanshaw, an affable company executive director with a neatly trimmed beard. Leaving the bloc would allow Britain to negotiate trade deals without having to take into account the diverse interests of the EU's 27 other members, he believes. Hanshaw is planning to vote in favor of Brexit, but admits that many of his employees are happy with the status quo.

The economic redevelopment of Liverpool and much of post-industrial Britain is vulnerable to shocks. From the opening of the port city's first docks in 1715 to 1960 the city enjoyed two and a half centuries of prosperity. It was the starting point of goods destined for export around the British Empire, and a departure point for emigrants from Ireland and around Europe seeking a better life in the United States. The city experienced a steep decline after 1960, but has experienced a burgeoning revival in the last two decades.

Its docks, once the foundation of the city's wealth that fell into obsolescence, have been regenerated as a cultural and tourist hub thanks to a share of the £1.5 billion in European funds that the city has received, according to local authorities. Work is underway to develop a new port, capable of accommodating the latest generation of container ships, due to open this year. "The Brexiters who demand that we should leave Europe quite simply tell you that the grass is greener on the other side," said Joe Anderson, mayor of Liverpool and a member of the centreleft Labor party. "My belief is that there would be desert on the other side and a lonely path for the UK left alone and isolated."—AFP

ISRAELI FIRMS PROFIT AS EUROPE BOOSTS DEFENSE SPENDING

By Joe Dyke

s European defense budgets rise in the wake of increased threats, Israeli companies are seeing a boost in sales, further solidifying the country's image as an arms industry leader. The increases have come despite, and perhaps partly aided by, Israel's continuing occupation of Palestinian territory-with Israeli firms themselves highlighting that their products have been tested in conflict.

European spending on defense and security had remained roughly static in the past decade, but Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, Islamist attacks in France and a wave of refugees from the Middle East have encouraged a spike. Across the continent, defense budgets are expected to increase by 8.3 percent this year, according to a recent report by a group of think tanks including the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs. Israeli companies, many of which have strong backing from the state, are capitalizing by pushing new products.

Twenty-nine of them displayed technologies this week at the Eurosatory conference in Paris, one of the world's largest land defense exhibitions. Exports to France, which has strongly criticized Israeli settlement building in the occupied West Bank and is overseeing a peace initiative that the Israelis oppose, have spiked. In 2014, the total number of exports of both homeland security and defense technologies from Israel to France amounted to slightly over \$150 million, according to the Israel Export Institute.

That figure more than doubled to \$355 million in 2015, when France was hit by two major jihadist attacks. In 2016, Israel is projected to overtake Italy to become the world's seventh-largest defense exporter-by far the smallest country in the top 10, according to arms industry analysts IHS Jane's. There has been a "substantial increase" in European interest in Israeli

technologies, said Ran Kril, vice president of international marketing at Elbit Systems, one of the country's largest weapons companies, with profits of just under \$900 million last year. That has come "after long years in which the defense budgets in Europe were declining," he said.

Seeing through trees

At a media exhibition of Elbit's new technologies last week in the Israeli city of Netanya, products on display included a radar system the company said was first specifically designed to locate people through trees. A salesman pitched it as being perfect for European countries

seeking to locate migrants hiding in forests. "Maybe you are not going to shoot them, but you want to bring the police forces or other means," he added. Kril confirmed that Elbit, which provided drones to protect stadiums during the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, was also involved in the ongoing Euro 2016 football tournament in France, though he would not specify how. Other Israeli firms, too, are finding increasing interest.

Saul Gold from AgentVI, which specializes in smarter CCTV technologies, said they had seen a five to 10 percent increase in inquiries in the past six months from northern Europe. Among those they had met with about their systems was Brussels

airport, the scene of an April suicide bombing that, along with an attack at a metro station, left 22 people dead. Gold said European airports were increasingly interested in learning about security measures at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport, often cited as having the highest security measures globally-though critics allege blatant racial profiling.

Israeli edge?

The desire for Israeli technologies can also pose an ethical challenge for European nations that have long criticized its policies towards Palestinians. Late last year, the European Union introduced labeling on all products from settlements in the occupied West Bank and Elbit's 2015 annual report identifies "calls in Europe and elsewhere to reduce trade with Israel" as among the threats to its growth. Many of the technologies being sold to Europe are first used in conflict with Palestinians, including the 2014 war with Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza. Indeed for companies, this experience is often a major selling point. "These countries very much admire the operational experience

of these systems," Kril said. "Most of these products and technology are fielded and are bringing results daily. This is very important for the customers, especially the ones that need immediate technology and immediate solutions." Gilles Perez of the Israel Export Institute said: "The Israeli edge is where the security ecosystem allows the Israeli companies to have many pilots, many tests at home." "They can test it with the (Israeli military), with the special security forces." Sari Bashi, Israel and Palestine director at Human Rights Watch, said during the 2014 Gaza war the watchdog had documented "violations of the rules of war that appear to rise to the level of war crimes in Gaza using some of these weapons." "That kind of field experience is not something I would be proud of," she added. —AFP



NETANYA, Israel: An XACT TH64 Thermal Weapon Sight made by Israeli company Elbit Systems is being unveiled to journalists in the Israeli Mediterranean coastal city of Netanya, a week prior to its presentation at the Eurosatory defense and security international exhibition. —AFP

BARDET TO LEAD AG2R IN TOUR DE FRANCE

PARIS: French rider Romain Bardet, runner-up in the Criterium du DauphinÈ, will lead the AG2R team in the Tour de France from July 2-24, team general manager Vincent Lavenu said yesterday. Bardet, 25, will be backed up by Italian newcomer Domenico Pozzovivo, Belgian Jan Bakelants and French riders

Mikael Cherel, Cyril Gautier, Alexis Gougeard and Alexis Vuillermoz. The two remaining riders in the nine-man team will be named after various national championships next Sunday. "The team were successful and steady in recent years and the Tour, as it is designed, should suit us," said Lavenu. "Like most teams, we're hoping for the jackpot of a stage win. "Romain (Bardet) will be the sole leader but we can't close the door on other riders. In the overall standings he doesn't want to jump the gun and put himself under pressure. But if he is as strong as in the DauphinÈ I'm not worried while acknowledging that there are other criteria in the Tour." Bardet finished sixth in the 2014 Tour de France and ninth in 2015. —AFP

WILLIAMS EQUAL F1 PIT STOP RECORD

BAKU: The Williams Formula One team equalled the record for the sport's fastest pit stop in Sunday's European Grand Prix. The British outfit changed the tyres on Brazilian Felipe Massa's car in 1.92 seconds, equaling the previous best on record set by the Red Bull team at the 2013 United States Grand Prix, according to statistics gathered for the DHL Fastest Pit Stop Award. Red Bull turned around Australian Mark Webber in 1.923 seconds at the American race, when pit-stop timings were logged to thousandths of a second. Williams' speed in the pits has been outstanding this year and they have been the fastest team at every race following a deliberate plan to improve their form. "I was surprised in the first race that we had such a quick pit-stop," said Massa. "We even lost time because it was quicker than you expected, but then I was ready to have a good one, because the team is doing such a

KOEMAN KEEN TO LEAD **EVERTON BACK INTO EUROPE**

LONDON: Manager Ronald Koeman is eager to lead Everton back into Europe after recent seasons have seen the Merseyside club languish among the mid-table positions in the Premier League. The Toffees have qualified for the Europa League just twice in their last six campaigns and have failed to feature in the knockout stages of Europe's elite club competition since 1971. "I'd like to be part of bringing that back, to win and play European football, to show the ambition and spirit in the club and of course to become a strong team in the Premier League," Koeman, who joined the club last week, told British media. "If we need players to make the team better, a budget is available to make a strong team... But for sure, to bring Everton back to fighting for the European positions (is a target)." Everton's poor form last season saw them finish 11th and cost manager Roberto Martinez his job, with Koeman highlighting a lack of confidence within a team which squandered several two-goal leads throughout the campaign as their biggest problem. "If I could say something then it was about confidence-it makes a big difference... There was a lack of that confidence in several players and if you don't have that level of confidence then sometimes football is difficult," Koeman said. — Reuters

BELT HOMERS, GIANTS FINISH SWEEP OF RAYS TO WIN 8TH STRAIGHT

ST PETERSBURG: Brandon Belt homered and Joe Panik hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth as the San Francisco Giants beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-1 on Sunday for their eighth straight win. Jake Peavy (3-6) pitched six solid innings to win for the third time in four starts. Belt hit his team-leading 10th homer off Jake Odorizzi, and Panik delivered in a key situation for the second straight game with his run-scoring single against Xavier Cedeno (3-2) during San Francisco's four-run eighth. Panik is just 2 for 14 through three games of San Francisco's week-long road trip, but both hits broke lateinning ties. He hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning of Saturday's 6-4 win over Tampa Bay, which has lost four straight.

ORIOLES 11, BLUE JAYS 6

Matt Wieters homered and drove in four runs, and Baltimore outslugged Toronto to provide right-hander Chris Tillman with his ninth straight victory. Baltimore amassed a season-high 19 hits against Marcus Stroman (6-3) and five relievers in the deciding matchup of the three-game series between AL East contenders. Wieters went 4 for 5 with three doubles. Jonathan Schoop contributed a homer and three RBIs, and Chris Davis had three hits and scored three runs. The Orioles were without two-time All-Star Manny Machado, who began a four-game suspension for charging the mound on June 7. Tillman (10-1) allowed four runs and five hits in five laborious innings.

BRAVES 6, METS 0

Julio Teheran tossed a one-hit masterpiece, pitching the Braves to a surprising three-game sweep of the scuffling Mets. Nick Markakis homered and drove in two runs for Atlanta, which has won five straight for the first time since the first five games of last season. Freddie Freeman had four hits and the Braves finally mustered some offense in support of Teheran (3-7), who yielded only Michael Conforto's clean single leading off the third inning. New York right-hander Jacob DeGrom, pitching on his 28th birthday and as a dad on Father's Day for the first time, gave up three runs and five hits in six innings.

ANGELS 2, ATHLETICS 0

Jered Weaver pitched a three-hitter, leading the Angels to the victory. Weaver (6-6) had given up 11 earned runs over his last 11-1/3 innings before helping Los Angeles to its fifth win in six games against the A's this season. The right-hander struck out one and walked one. It marked just the fourth time in 14 starts this season that Weaver had gone past the sixth inning. Carlos Perez homered for the Angels. Albert Pujols drove in the other run. Oakland starter Eric Surkamp (0-5) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings.

MARLINS 3, ROCKIES 0

Tom Koehler pitched around six walks in six innings and three relievers combined for three perfect innings, helping Miami to the win. Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run drive in the sixth inning for his 13th homer. The Marlins (37-32) climbed five games above .500 for the first time since May 8, 2014, and they'll try for a four-game sweep yesterday. Koehler (6-6) threw only 48 of his 92 pitches for strikes but allowed just two hits before departing for a pinch hitter in the sixth. A.J. Ramos pitched the ninth for his 31st save in a row, including 22 this year. Tyler Anderson (0-1), making his



ST PETERSBURG: San Francisco Giants' Conor Gillaspie, right, follows through on a double in front of Tampa Bay Rays catcher Hank Conger during the eighth inning of a baseball game yesterday, in St Petersburg, Fla. — AP

runs in 5-2/3 innings.

RED SOX 2, MARINERS 1

Boston left-hander David Price snapped a personal three-game losing streak by pitching eight sharp innings, and Mookie Betts hit a goahead homer. Betts also had two singles for the Red Sox, who have won two in a row after dropping four of five. Franklin Gutierrez hit a solo homer for the Mariners. He sparked their series-opening victory with two homers and six RBIs. Price (8-4) gave up one run and eight hits. Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the ninth for his 16th save. Edwin Diaz (0-1) got

INDIANS 3, WHITE SOX 2, 10 INNINGS

Jose Ramirez hit an RBI single with two out in the 10th inning, lifting Cleveland to the three-game sweep. Ramirez's bases-loaded hit off David Robertson (0-1) skipped past first baseman Jose Abreu and into right field for Cleveland's second last-at bat win of the series. The AL Central-leading Indians improved to 7-2 against the White Sox, including six straight wins. Cleveland's Rajai Davis had four hits and scored two runs, including the game-winner. Dan Otero (2-0) struck out Abreu with a runner on first to end the 10th.

RANGERS 5, CARDINALS 4

Jurickson Profar hit a two-run single in the eighth, helping Texas to its sixth straight win. It was Profar's first pinch-hit at-bat this season. The Rangers improved to 14-4 this month and

second career start, was charged with two a major league-best 16-4 in one-run games helping Houston to the win. Mike Fiers (5-3) 1/3 innings for his first save. Cincinnati leftthis season. St. Louis has lost five in a row - all at home. It was the first winless homestand of at least two series for St. Louis since 1983. Tony Barnette (4-2) pitched 1-2/3 scoreless innings for the win. Sam Dyson worked the ninth for his 13th save in 14 chances. Matt Bowman (1-2) got the loss.

ROYALS 2, TIGERS 1, 13 INNINGS

Cheslor Cuthbert singled home Lorenzo Cain in the 13th inning, giving Kansas City the win. The Royals won six of seven on their homestand and lead the American League with a 25-8 home record. Chien-Ming Wang (4-0) allowed one hit in 1-2/3 innings to pick up the victory. Kyle Ryan (1-2), who was just promoted from Triple-A Toledo, got the loss.

TWINS 7, YANKEES 4

Ervin Santana pitched into the eighth inning to earn his first victory since May 14 and Minnesota avoided a four-game series sweep. Eduardo Escobar's two-run triple keyed a four-run sixth inning as the Twins snapped a five-game losing streak. Max Kepler and Brian Dozier homered and Brandon Kintzler got the final four outs for his second save. Brian McCann homered twice and Alex Rodriguez had an RBI single for the Yankees. Nathan Eovaldi (6-4) lost his second straight start. Santana (2-7) allowed two earned runs and six hits in 7 1/3 innings.

ASTROS 6, REDS 0

Evan Gattis and Luis Valbuena homered,

allowed four hits and struck out five in 5-2/3 innings. He departed when Jay Bruce's line drive hit him in the thigh for a single. Chris Devenski took over and allowed one hit in 3-

hander Brandon Finnegan (3-5) yielded four runs in five innings, snapping a streak of five straight games where he lasted at least six innings. — AP

MLB results/standings

Atlanta 6, NY Mets 0; Cleveland 3, Chicago White Sox 2 (10 innings); Miami 3, Colorado 0; San Francisco 5, Tampa Bay 1; Arizona 5, Philadelphia 1; Boston 2, Seattle 1; Baltimore 11, Toronto 6; Houston 6, Cincinnati 0; Minnesota 7, NY Yankees 4; Kansas City 2, Detroit 1 (13 innings); Texas 5, St. Louis 4; LA Angels 2, Oakland 0; LA Dodgers 2, Milwaukee 1; San Diego 6, Washington 3; Chicago Cubs 10, Pittsburgh 5.

Α	meric	an Leagu	e	National League								
E	aster	n Divisior	1		Eastern Division							
	W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	43	27	.614	-			
Baltimore	40	28	.588	-	Miami	37	32	.536	5.5			
Boston	39	29	.574	1	NY Mets	36	32	.529	6			
Toronto	39	33	.542	3	Philadelphia	30	40	.429	13			
NY Yankees	34	35	.493	6.5	Atlanta	23	46	.333	19.5			
Tampa Bay	31	36	.463	8.5			al Division					
	Centra	al Division	ı		Chicago Cubs	47	20	.701	_			
Cleveland	38	30	.559	-	St. Louis	35	33	.515	12.5			
Kansas City	38	31	.551	0.5	Pittsburgh	33	36	.478	15			
Detroit	34	35	.493	4.5								
Chicago WSox	33	36	.478	5.5	Milwaukee	31	39	.443	17.5			
Minnesota	21	48	.304	17.5	Cincinnati	27	43	.386	21.5			
		n Divisio			V	/este	rn Divisio	n				
Texas	45	25	.643	_	San Francisco	44	26	.629	-			
Seattle	36	33	.522	8.5	LA Dodgers	38	33	.535	6.5			
Houston	34	36	.486	11	Colorado	32	36	.471	11			
LA Angels	31	38	.449	13.5	Arizona	32	39	.451	12.5			
Oakland			.406	16.5	San Diego	29	42	.408	15.5			
Oakiaiiū	28	41	.406	10.5	Jan Diego	23	-72	100	13.3			

TRELLI

BAKU: Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's German driver Nico Rosberg celebrates on the podium after winning the European Formula One Grand Prix at the Baku City Circuit on Sunday in Baku. — AFP

F1: MERCEDES WANT A RE-THINK ON RADIO BAN

BAKU: Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff has called for a re-think on the radio communications ban that robbed Lewis Hamilton of a chance to fight for a podium finish in Sunday's European Grand Prix.

His Mercedes team-mate and championship leader Nico Rosberg won the race, but both drivers had problems with incorrect engine settings. Starting from pole, Rosberg was able to fix his issue relatively swiftly, but Hamilton struggled

"I think we want to see drivers racing each other," he said. "The cars are very complicated and obviously very sophisticated technologywise. I think we need to look at the rules.

"It's not that I'm complaining. It's the same for everybody and I think the Ferrari had the same issue. "You can do two things. You can either make the technology much less complicated and I don't think this is the right direction-or maybe adjust the regulation so you are able to communicate more with the driver in case of a problem, but it is how it is."

Making the most of Hamilton's problems - he

started 10th after an error-strewn qualifying session - Rosberg cruised to his fifth win of the season and 19th of his career.

After finishing fifth, the defending three-time world champion is now 24 points behind Rosberg in the title race. Asked how it felt in the car during those 12 laps, he said: "Dangerous.... I am just looking at my steering wheel for a large portion of the lap - all the way down the straight just looking at my wheel. "All they can tell me is there is a switch error, wrong switch position, so I am looking at every single switch thinking, am I being an idiot here? Have I done something wrong? And I hadn't."

Mercedes explained later that the problem was caused by 'de-rating', which happens when there is a lower than maximum electrical deployment from the hybrid part of the power unit.

"The settings were wrong because we had a messy Friday and couldn't configure it in the way we should have done," Wolff added. "So it was pre-set in the wrong way and it happened a little bit earlier on Lewis's car. I think it was three laps earlier."

FORTUNATE SITUATION

Hamilton spent much of the race trying to resolve his problem with his engineer telling him repeatedly that he could not give advice.

"Nico was in a more fortunate situation in that he did a switch change just before, which kind of led him on the right path," said Wolff.

He said the problems cost Hamilton at least two-tenths of a second per lap. "It was just one switch change, but you need to find that out-and you are at 350kph in the car, playing around with the steering wheel... it's a complex matter. "I don't think it's down to homework."

Hamilton was left hoping for the best. "They said it will work itself out... and it did with eight laps to go," he said. Rosberg said: "It wasn't easy because of the clampdown on radio communication, so they couldn't tell us specifically what it was. "I felt the issue out on track, with the engine down on power, so I looked at my steering wheel and figured 'it must be that one, so take it off' and it worked! "They said it was a problem with the mode, but which mode? There are so many... I thought about it and figured that that was the one." — AFP

WADA CHIEF READY FOR 'PRECEDENT-SETTING' ACTION

LONDON: Craig Reedie, the head of the World Anti-Doping Agency, indicated yesterday he would be prepared to back a complete ban for the entire Russia team from August's Olympic Games in Rio.

The founding president of WADA, Dick Pound, told Britain's Sunday Times newspaper that such a ban was "not impossible". Friday saw the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) uphold an international ban on Russia's track and field competitors first imposed in November after a WADA team led by veteran Canadian sports administrator Pound revealed statesponsored doping and mass corruption in Russian athletics.

The Russia team is now ruled out of all events in athletics in Rio, although Russian athletes training outside the country can apply to compete as neutrals at the August 5-21 event in Brazil. The IAAF's decision was endorsed by the International Olympic Committee on Saturday. But there are fears that the scale of Russia's breaking of doping rules extend beyond just track and field. In May, WADA set up a new investigation under Professor Richard McLaren, a Canadian law professor and longstanding member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), into allegations of statebacked doping at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia.

Grigory Rodchenkov, the former head of the Russian lab now living in Los Angeles, also gave an interview to the New York Times last month in which he said he switched tainted urine samples for clean ones at the doping lab used for the Sochi Games, with help from people he believed to be officers

of the Russian security services.

McLaren, who is due to deliver his full report by July 15, said in a preliminary statement on Friday he had evidence that Russia's Ministry of Sport was involved in instructing a Moscow laboratory to "not report positive sample results over the period before, during and after" the 2013 World Athletics Championships.

"In the coming weeks, we will learn the outcome of our independent McLaren investigation," Reedie, speaking at the WADA symposium at London's Lord's Cricket Ground, said yesterday.

"If his report indicates transgressions of any kind, then there will be a precedentsetting opportunity to demonstrate our collective commitment to cleaning up sport," added the veteran British sports administrator, who reiterated WADA's sup-

the round for an infraction on the fifth green.

move so no penalty was assessed at the time.

video of the incident again after his round.

short birdie putt at the final hole.

bother me at all."

n't think that I did anything to cause the ball to

move, but at the end of the day, it didn't affect

what happened," Johnson said. "So it doesn't

'#COMMONSENSE'

dling of the matter by Johnson's fellow pros was

scathing. "Some great golf by @DJohnsonPGA all

week, strong way to finish overcomeing that

rules farce," Tiger Woods, who missed the tourna-

ment as he continues to rehab his bad back,

tweeted. Other golfers were expressing outrage

even before the round ended. "This is ridicu-

lous... No penalty whatsoever for DJ. Let the guy

play without this crap in his head. Amateur hour

from @USGA," tweeted Rory McIlroy, who missed

However, the response to the USGA's han-

port for the IAAF ban on Russia. "The above its weight" on a budget of less than world will be watching."

'LEVEL PLAYING FIELD'

Reedie said the fact anti-doping laboratories in Beijing, Bloemfontein, Lisbon, Madrid and Moscow had all had their WADA accreditation suspended was proof the organisation had taken "decisive action" by hearing the "strength of the athlete's voice" in insisting labs maintain the "highest standards". This, said Reedie, was all part of "levelling the playing field for each and every athlete competing in Rio".

Meanwhile Reedie repeated his calls for increased WADA funding from national governments and also suggested that, for the first time, broadcasters and media rightsholders might want to contribute to the budget. Reedie said WADA was "punching

JOHNSON WINS US OPEN FOR

HIS FIRST MAJOR TITLE

\$30 million a year, which he noted was less than the annual income of Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova, recently banned for a doping violation. Reedie added that 0.5 percent of the worldwide sports television rights market would produce a WADA budget of \$175 million and that it was in the rights-holders' interest to promote clean sport. Russian President Vladmir Putin has labelled the IAAF's ban on his country's athletes as "unjust and unfair".

But IAAF president Sebastian Coe, who won Olympic 1500 metres gold and 800m silver for Great Britain at the 1980 Moscow Games, wrote in Britain's Sunday Telegraph: "We have not prevented clean athletes from Russia from competing, rather the Russian system has cataclysmically failed their clean



KUWAIT SHOOTING CLUB TO PARTAKE AT RIO 2016 UNDER KUWAIT FLAG

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: President of Kuwait Shooting Sport Club (KSSC) Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi said, the club will only participate in the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics under the Kuwait flag. He said the board of directors follows the state's decisions not to officially participate, but gave shooters the choice to participate on their own. He said the club will not officially participate because of the unwarranted decisions against Kuwait sports by the International Olympic Committee, which is caused by complaints submitted by some Kuwaiti officials claiming government interference in Kuwait sports. Al-Otaibi was speaking during the Kuwait Shooting Sport Club General Assembly which was held Sunday evening at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

Al-Otaibi said Kuwait Shooting Federation won the appeal ruling against Kuwait Olympic Committee, that commits it to send a letter to the international shooting sports federation stating that KSF is the only entity that represents the State of Kuwait, as the case has been for 30 years. He said KOC had earlier sent a letter that denies recognition of KSF, which hindered Kuwait Shooting and deprived Kuwait shooters from representing their

Al-Otaibi said that the club did not want to deprive its shooters who qualified for the Olympics from participating, but it will not participate without the Kuwait flag. He expressed regret that the suspension of Kuwait sports is still on, for baseless

reasons, as some are claiming interference of government in athletes affairs, which "is totally untrue." He said Kuwait federations and clubs enjoy complete independence and are democratically elected, and this had adverse results on Kuwaiti athletes by depriving them from foreign participation.

Eng Al-Otaibi lauded the distinguished results of Kuwait shooters in the regional and international tournaments, adding that Kuwait shooters still top the Asian and international rankings.

Al-Otaibi appreciated the unlimited support Kuwait shooting enjoys from the country's political leadership, which had a great effect on Kuwait shooting achievements including the two Olympic medals by shooter Fuhaid Al-Daihani, which is Kuwait's only Olympic achievement, that in addition to having 60 per cent of Kuwait gains in the Asian games, the latest of which the Incheon

Meanwhile the six shooters qualified for the Olympics Fuhaid Al-Daihani, Abdallah Al-Torgi Al-Rashidi, Khalid Al-Mudhaf, Abdelrahman Al-Faihan, Saud Habib Al-Kandary and Ahmad Al-Afasi were honored during the general assembly in the presence of Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security Maj Gen Mahmoud Al-Dousary.

The general assembly was chaired by Eng Duaij alaf Al-Otaibi and in the presen Secretary General Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi, Treasurer Essa Butaiban, Assistant Secretary General Eng Mohammad Misfer Al-Ghurba, Assistant treasurer Adnan Nasser Al-Ibrahim and Board Member Eng Hussam Al-Roumi.



OAKMONT: Dustin Johnson of the United States poses with the winner's trophy after winning the US Open as Shane Lowry (C) of Ireland and Amateur Jon Rahm (L) of Spain look on at Oakmont Country Club on Sunday in Oakmont, Pennsylvania. — AFP

the cut at Oakmont. Spieth, who finished his fourth round earlier, added: "Lemme get this straight.. DJ doesn't address it. It's ruled that he didn't cause it to move. Now you tell him he may have? Now? This a joke?"

PGA Tour pro Brandt Snedeker tweeted: "Hey @USGA, it's impossible for DJ to cause the ball to move backwards!!!!!! #commonsense."

World number one Jason Day, who finished tied for eighth six shots behind Johnson, said he couldn't fault officials for informing Johnson that the penalty might be assessed. "I'd probably rather know. I like to know where I'm at on the leaderboard." The USGA's top rules official,

criticism. He said a number of factors went into the decision to dock Johnson a stroke, including the steepness of the Oakmont greens and the time that elapsed between the time Johnson put his putter behind the ball and the time the ball moved. "It's not going to be 100 percent clear, yes, the player caused the ball to move, but that's not the standard we're dealing with, Pagel said, explaining that it need only be more likely than not that the player caused the ball to move for a penalty to be incurred. "We understand not everyone is going to agree with that,"

Thomas Pagel, was unapologetic in the face of



HALFPENNY DELIGHTED WITH TRIUMPHANT RETURN

TOULON: British and Irish Lions star Leigh Halfpenny is delighted at his triumphant return to action after a debilitating knee injury that saw him miss the Rugby World Cup. The 27-year-old Welshman sustained the injury in a pre-World Cup warm-up game against Italy in September and has spent the last eight months on the sidelines.

But Halfpenny marked his first club match of the season by contributing 17 points in Toulon's 27-18 victory over Montpellier in Saturday's semi-final to set up a mouth-watering Top 14 final against Dan Carter's Racing 92 in Barcelona on Friday. "It's been a long journey coming back from injury, but it's been helped by the medical staff here who have worked very hard to get me back from injury, and also the players and management have been fantastic in supporting me in overcoming the injury," Halfpenny said.

"There have been challenges along the way, having to have the second operation on the cartilage, but I managed to overcome that and the knee's feeling good now. "I was just absolutely delighted to be back out on the field playing with the boys on Saturday.

"The players here were fantastic in helping me get back to playing and getting up to speed on the calls and how we want to play." Halfpenny said he had been "excited to be back" and had tried to enjoy every minute of the game, but

warned that there was more to come. The victory over Montpellier "was a big game for this club and a fantastic achievement that we've made the final, but that's not it for us, we want to go on and win the trophy, the Bouclier Brennus", the full-back said. Capped 59 times by Wales and three times by the Lions on the victorious Australia tour in 2013, Halfpenny's start at Toulon was also blighted by injury but he rebounded to score 14 points as the Mediterranean club beat Clermont in the 2015 European Cup to claim a record third successive continental crown.

Toulon this season were edged 19-16 by Racing in the European Cup quarterfinals, Halfpenny acknowledging the strength of the Parisian side driven by goal-kicking All Black legend Carter at fly-half. "It's exciting to go to Barcelona with an opportunity to win the Bouclier," he said, with a capacity 98,000 crowd expected at the Camp Nou for the first final to be held off French territory due to the ongoing European football championships in France. "It's huge for us as a team, it was our goal at the start of the season and now we have an opportunity to do that, although we have difficult opposition in front of us.

"It's going to be a huge challenge. Racing are a very good team and we'll have to be at our best on Friday. We need a good week of preparation leading into that game. "For us as a team it will be a huge occasion and one that we need to go out and try to enjoy." — AFP

RIO'S SUBWAY LINE IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME BEFORE OLYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Two construction workers chatted while applying white grout to the walls of a new subway tunnel one recent day, their voices and the smells of the building materials stark reminders of what was missing: passengers

Seven weeks before the Olympic Games, a subway expansion that was supposed to transport hundreds of thousands of athletes and fans is not done. While Brazilian officials insist it can still be finished in time, frequent delays, skyrocketing costs, and a financing snag have created

Even if Rio de Janeiro completes the key part of the expansion in time, transportation experts worry it may be too late to adequately test the system before the Olympics open on Aug. 5. The launch date has been repeatedly pushed back, with officials saying they'll cut the ribbon four days before competition begins. "They are leaving so little time to try this mas-

sive system," said Jose Manoel Ferreira Goncalves, president of FerroFrente, an organization of railway experts. "What guarantee do we have that such a sensitive and complicated project is in order?"

"Every hour counts," Rodrigo Vieira, Rio de Janeiro's transportation head, told The Associated Press, insisting the job would be finished. "We are working around the clock, 24/7 with 1,000 workers in each station."

Line 4 of the subway system was to be Rio's most important Olympic infrastructure project. It was designed to transport passengers from Ipanema beach to the modern suburb of Barra da Tijuca, home of the Olympic Park and Village, in less than 15 minutes, as well as to most competition venues.

In contrast, the drive along the highway through lush mountains and shantytowns takes more than an hour on a good day, raising the specter of a logistics nightmare if the line isn't finished, and hundreds of thousands of visitors have to take buses or cars on already-clogged roads. When Brazil won the hosting rights in 2009, its economic fortunes were far different. The discoveries of rich oil fields in 2007 made major infrastructure projects like Line 4 seem possible back then.

But as global oil prices plunged in recent vears, the state's accounts were hit hard. The oil sector in Latin America's largest nation has also been rocked by a major investigation into a colossal kickback scheme at state oil company



RIO DE JANEIRO: In this June 8, 2016 photo, men work in the new underground subway tunnel below Ipanema neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. With weeks before the summer Olympic games commence, a subway expansion that was supposed to transport hundreds of thousands of athletes and fans is not done. While officials insist it can still be finished in time, frequent delays, skyrocketing costs and a financing snag have created doubts. —AP

Petrobras. Now, Rio state's finances are in such bad shape, the acting governor on Friday declared a state of financial disaster, a move giving him more freedom to manage shrinking resources without breaking fiscal laws. Rio state has been skipping payments to teachers and retired workers. Some police stations are missing basic items like toilet paper, and residents have felt obligated to pitch in.

"As the wealth has been wiped out, the dreams we had of the big transformations have also faded," said Gilberto Braga, a finance professor at Ibmec university in Rio. The state recently failed to make an \$8.3 million payment on a loan to the French Development Agency, which is helping pay for the subway project, forcing the federal government to intervene.

Because of the missed payment, the federal government became wary of Rio state acquiring more debt. Brazil's finance ministry says it is reviewing the state's ability to handle more loans, and has held up \$284 million that a national bank dedicated to infrastructure projects had earmarked to complete the line.

"Rio's financial worries are notorious. I acknowledge that it's not a small feat (for the federal government) to approve a loan to a state in financial problems," the state's financial secretary, Julio Bueno, told the AP. "On the other hand, we have the Olympics. The subway is vital."

Despite optimism it will come together, city officials have devised backup plans, such as special lanes and a rapid transit system for buses.

Officials have dialed down expectations for the subway project for months. Last-minute construction on the line has created fears after a bike lane collapse that plunged two joggers to their deaths in April. It was inaugurated in January, and collapsed when struck by a large wave. — AP

GOLDEN OLDIE 'KAZU' BREAKS GOAL RECORD - AT 49

TOKYO: Twinkle-toed former Japan striker Miura celebrated with his trademark tap Kazuyoshi Miura proved he has no plans to shuffle off into the sunset after the 49-yearold rewrote his own record as the J-League's oldest goal scorer.

"King Kazu", who is playing in his 31st season as a professional, scored with a rare header for Yokohama FC on Sunday in his side's 2-1 defeat at home to FC Gifu in the Japanese second division. Thought to be the world's oldest professional footballer,

dance, albeit slightly slower than in his heyday. "You have to be very determined to keep going for 31 years and still score goals," Miura told local media. "I felt I could get a goal today," added Japan's erstwhile poster boy, who reached his latest milestone aged 49 years, three months and 24 days. "But I should be scoring more if I'm honest," Japan's Kyodo news agency quoted him as saying. The oldest goal scorer in Japan's top

flight is the Brazilian legend Zico, who was 41. Closing in on his half century, Miura credited baseball superstar Ichiro Suzuki, who at 42 recently set his own personal milestone by notching 4,257 career hits, passing Pete Rose's Major League Baseball record total. "(Ichiro) taught me how important it is to keep chipping away to reach bigger goals," Miura said, his pin-up looks latterly replaced by a few grey hairs and telltale wrinkles. "The important thing is to believe in yourself." Miura, dubbed King Kazu at the peak of his powers in the early 1990s when he was Asia's best-known footballer, is Japan's second-highest goalscorer with 55 goals in 89 matches. He blazed a trail for Japanese players when he joined Italy's Genoa in 1994, although a broken nose on his debut took some of the gloss off his trumpeted arrival.

When the former Dinamo Zagreb player was axed from the Japanese squad by former coach Takeshi Okada before the country's first World Cup appearance in 1998, it triggered a national debate.

Unperturbed, Miura defiantly offered his services for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa-with no apparent hint of irony-at the ripe old age of 43. Okada, in his second spell as coach, politely declined.

Miura finally got his dream to play for Japan in a World Cup at 45, albeit in the futsal version in Thailand. — AFP

US DREAM OF COPA AMERICA SHOCK AGAINST ARGENTINA

HOUSTON: Jurgen Klinsmann is daring to dream that the United States can pull off mission improbable in the Copa America Centenario semi-finals here today as the hosts face a Lionel Messi-inspired Argentina closing in on a long-awaited tournament triumph. Klinsmann has already met his pre-tournament goal of reaching the last four after helping his side navigate a challenging group phase and an awkward quarter-final against in-form

But despite a raft of suspensions which will decimate his first choice starting lineup at Houston's NRG Stadium, Klinsmann is bullishly talking up his team's chances as they prepare to take on the might of Argentina. The German World Cup winner cites his team's impressive record in recent friendlies, which has included away wins over Germany and the Netherlands, and their performances in the 2014 World Cup as reasons to believe. "There's no reason at all why we can't win Copa America," Klinsmann said on Sunday.

"We travelled the world the last few years to very difficult friendly games all over Europe and in Mexico and we came away with wins." In Brazil two years ago, Klinsmann's side helped eliminate a Cristiano Ronaldo-led Portugal and highly rated Ghana before qualifying with Germany in the World Cup's "Group of Death." "We don't need to talk up Argentina any bigger than they are," Klinsmann said. "Two years ago we had Mr Ronaldo against us in Manaus. And we led them 2-1 until the 96th minute," Klinsmann said of his team's first round World Cup match which finished in a 2-2 draw.

"We surprised a lot of people-no one gave us a chance to get out of the group in Brazil. We left Portugal behind, we left Ghana behind. "Anything is possible in knockout games. You're 50-50 with whoever you play against," he said. "Dream bigwhy not? This is about two more games."

Privately however Klinsmann will be attempting to solve the puzzle caused by the suspensions of influential midfielder Jermaine Jones, wide player Alejandro Bedoya and the Hamburg-bound striker Bobby Wood. All three have played a pivotal role in the US campaign, with Wood providing the speed and thrust in attack which has created the space for veteran Clint Dempsey to thrive, and Jones a towering presence in the heart of midfield.

Although Klinsmann has urged his team to shed their underdog mentality, insisting he wants them to be bold against more heralded opponents, a gung-ho approach against Argentina could be disastrous. When the relentless US pressing dropped off in the second half against Ecuador in the quarter-finals, the South Americans created chance after chance only to be let down by poor finishing. Argentina, who have amassed 14 goals in four games, are unlikely to be as profligate.

Messi, superb in Saturday's 4-1 quarterfinal demolition of Venezuela, where he scored once to join Gabriel Batistuta as Argentina's record international goalscorer with 54 goals, cautions that facing the hosts on home turf may not be as straightforward as it seems.

"We're on the right track, but it will be very difficult playing in front of the American crowd. Physically they are a very strong team and they can do a lot of damage if they are allowed to play," warned Messi. Yet it is hard to see anything other than an Argentina victory which would leave Gerardo Martino's side 90 minutes away from ending a 23-year wait for a major title. Messi and his team-mates have suffered agonizing losses in the finals of last year's Copa America in Chile and the 2014 World Cup against Germany.

"It is clear that I want to win something with my country and I want to do everything I can to make that happen," said the Barcelona superstar. — AFP



LONDON: Britain's Andy Murray (2L) is presented with the trophy after winning the men's singles final match against Canada's Milos Raonic (L) at the ATP Aegon Championships tennis tournament at the Queen's Club in west London on Sunday. Murray won the match 6-7, 6-4, 6-3. — AFP

'CHAMPAGNE ON ICE' FOR WIMBLEDON, SAYS MURRAY

LONDON: Andy Murray warned Novak Djokovic he has the champagne on ice as the Queen's Club history-maker plots to end the world number one's reign as Wimbledon champion.

Murray completed the perfect warm-up for Wimbledon when the world number two defeated Milos Raonic 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-3 on Sunday to retain the Queen's title and lift the trophy for a record fifth time.

With Wimbledon getting underway on June 29, Murray looks well placed to emulate his historic 2013 triumph at the All England Club. But the 29-year-old knows he is likely to have to defeat Djokovic, who has won Wimbledon for the last two years, to earn the third Grand Slam of his career.

Despite losing to Djokovic in 13 of their past 15 meetings, including this year's Australian and French Open finals, Murray believes the return to his camp of coach Ivan Lendl this week can make the difference in the grass-court Grand Slam. And, asked what he would do with the large bottle of champagne given to him by Queen's officials, Murray issued a statement of intent to Djokovic. "I'll take it home, I guess, and hopefully maybe have something to celebrate in a few weeks. Yeah, keep it for after Wimbledon," he said. While Djokovic has been resting following the long-awaited completion of his career Grand Slam at Roland Garros, Murray has been honing his grass-court game and getting reacquainted with Lendl, who proved an invaluable presence when the Scot defeated Djokovic in the Wimbledon and US Open finals. Murray is also encouraged by reaching four finals in his last four tournaments, a run that has brought him two titles including his victory over Djokovic on the Rome clay in May.

"I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have done that before," Murray said. "It's a sign things are going the right direction the last few months. "I'm giving myself chances every week right now and winning a lot of matches.

"It's been a good three months or so, and I need to try to keep that up between now and the end of the year. That's the goal."

SPECIAL PLACE

Since claiming his first ever ATP Tour match win at Queen's in 2005, the venue has retained a special place in Murray's heart and he was visibly moved by surpassing four-time champions John McEnroe, Boris Becker, Andy Roddick and Lleyton Hewitt.b "It's a tournament that obviously means a lot to me. It's been my most successful tournament by far," he said. "To be the first player to win five times, it's not an easy tournament to win. It always has a great field and the players I have beaten in the finals have been top players." Murray won't be resting on his laurels however and he will head straight to Wimbledon for a practice session on Monday.

"It's obviously good preparation to win the event right beforehand, but I still have eight days until my first match at Wimbledon, so there's time to make things better and there's also time to mess things up," he said. "If I have five rubbish days of practice and don't put everything into it and concentrate on what I'm trying to do and get better, then I can go into Wimbledon feeling rubbish.

"It's been great, but I'm aware that I need to stay on it these next seven days. If I do that, then I'll put myself in a good position." Murray does at least plan to spend a day or two with wife Kim and baby Sophia before the Wimbledon whirlwind. "I'll take a couple of off-days next week because I need it," he said. "Most of the time it's just being around the family, go for a walk with the dogs, do normal stuff away from the court. I'm looking forward to it." — AFP

INDIA LEVEL TWENY20 SERIES WITH 10-WKT WIN

fire unbeaten half-century as India crushed Zimbabwe by 10 wickets to level the Twenty20 series yesterday. The result sets up a series decider in the third and final game that will also be played at the Harare Sports Club tomorrow.

Zimbabwe won the toss and elected to bat, but could only muster 99 for nine in their 20 overs as the Indian bowlers strangled the run-rate. The tourists made short work of their reply, racing to their victory target off 13.1 overs as Mandeep Singh (52 from 40 balls) and fellow opener Lokesh

HARARE: Mandeep Singh blasted a guick-Rahul (47 from 40 balls) put on a century stand. All the Zimbabwe batsmen struggled to score quick runs in their innings with none managing more than a run a ball. Peter Moor (31 from 32 balls) was the only one to muster any sort of resistance.

Debutant seamer Barinder Sran took for wickets to lead the Indian charge, while fellow paceman Jasprit Bumrah picked up three wickets in his four overs.

India also handed a debut to seamer Dhawal Kulkarni, though he was by far the most expensive of the bowlers as his one wicket cost 32 runs. — Reuters



HARARE: India's batsman Mandeep Singh hits a shot during the second T20 cricket match in a series of three games between India and host Zimbabwe in the Prayag Cup at Harare Sports Club, yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

HARARE: Scoreboard for the second Twenty20 international between Zimbabwe and

India yesterday:	
Zimbabwe C. Chibhabha c Rayudu b Sran	10
H. Masakadza b Sran	10
P. Moor c Patel b Bumrah	31
Sikandar Raza c Rahul b Sran	1
T. Mutombodzi Ibw b Sran	Ó
M. Waller c Patel b Chahal	14
E. Chigumbura b Bumrah	8
G. Cremer c Rayudu b Kulkarni	4
N. Madziva b Bumrah	1
D. Tiripano not out	11
T. Muzarabani not out	0
Extras (4lb, 4w, 1nb)	9
Total (9 wkts, 20 overs)	99
Fall of wickets: 1-14 (Chibhabha)	, 2-26
(Masakadza), 3-28 (Sikandar Raza),	
4-28 (Mutombodzi), 5-57 (Waller)	, 6-75
(Moor), 7-81 (Chigumbura), 8-83	

(Madziva), 9-91 (Cremer)

Bowling: Sran 4-0-10-4, Kulkarni 4-0-32-1, Patel 4-0-23-0, Chahal 4-1-19-1,

Bumrah 4-0-11-3 India KL Rahul not out 47 Mandeep Singh not out 52 Extras (3w, 1nb) 4 Total (0 wkts, 13.1 overs) 103 Did not bat: Ambati Rayudu, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Axar Patel, Dhawal Kulkarni, Jasprit Bumrah, Barinder Sran, Yuzvendra Chahal Bowling: Tiripano 3-0-11-0, Madziva 2.1-

0-19-0, Muzarabani 2-0-17-0, Cremer 3-0-24-0, Chibhabha 2-0-23-0, Sikandar Raza 1-0-9-0.

Result: India won by 10 wickets

BENCIC SEEKS TRAINING time amid Eastbourne rain

EASTBOURNE: Defending champion Belinda Bencic missed out on training time yesterday despite rain letting up at the Eastbourne International as organisers failed to cover any of the training courts.

The overnight and morning rain which soaked Devonshire Park did little to help the courts, left to the elements on a chilly day of 15 Celsius temperatures. "I was hoping for today but doesn't look good," said Swiss Bencic, who won the title a year ago over Agnieszka Radwanska. "When they don't cover the courts, we have no chance to practise.

"I guess it's the same for everyone, but still it's a little bit of a disadvantage." Local officials had no immediate explanation as to why practise courts were left uncovered while match courts were protected at the public park. The 19-yearold Bencic, ranked eighth, is keen to get stuck into her final week before the June 27 start of Wimbledon after slightly injuring her leg in a slipping fall last week in Birmingham which forced her to retire in the first round.

Bencic is currently playing only her third event after missing the clay season with back problems. She reached the semi-finals on grass in the Netherlands earlier this month.

"Everyone has injuries at some point of their career, so I'm not the first person to get an injury. Obviously the other girls have also had a little

"This (the back) was my first or second serious injury, I just take it as a part of the job. It's nothing special." The third seed was waiting for a second-round opponent after a bye as Heather Watson faced 2013 Elena Vesnina.

Bencic expresses no worries as she returns to full-time tennis with Wimbledon bearing down. "Why would I feel pressure? Of course it's ranking points, but every week someone is defending points somewhere. "It's just a normal situation. I don't feel any pressure and have no expectations because I haven't played a lot of matches lately. "I'm just trying to get the matches in and just keep going. I'm so glad to be back on the courts, so that's the most important." Top seed Radwanska is also looking for training time amid the weather chaos. The Pole who won the title on the south coast eight years ago, said that she has barely had time for any outdoor practise but is counting on better weather forecast for much

of the week. "It's only one day like this. A couple of times I just finished five minutes before the rain. I'm hoping it will be much better than the last week." Due to the weather, officials rearranged the day's programme, limiting their hopes to six first-round matches. — AFP



Belinda Bencic

TIGHT GROUPS, MATCHES SHOW 24-TEAM FORMAT WORKING: UEFA

FAN FERVOR













PARIS: The decision to increase the number of teams for Euro 2016 has been justified with nearly all sides still able to qualify for the knockout stages and games proving closer than in previous tournaments, a senior UEFA official said yesterday.

Europe's soccer governing body opted eight years ago to expand the European Championship from 16 to 24 teams as it sought to give a chance for some of the continent's smaller nations to make it to the elite competition. With the final group games concluding tomorrow, only one fixture for the final 16 will be decided beforehand, leaving everything to play for in the upcoming matches.

Albania, for example, who finished third in a group featuring the hosts and Switzerland on Sunday, will have to remain in France until Wednesday before they know whether they will advance or not. "It's been a positive surprise," Giorgio Marchetti, UEFA's director of competitions, told reporters. "We have had so far a tight and intense competition. "All the groups are open to any solution with even all four teams able to qualify and (in some cases) even able to get first position."

On paper Marchetti is probably right. After twothirds of the way through the group stage, few games have been one-sided. One-goal margins or draws have made up the bulk of game results and some 13 goals after the 87th minute have shown sides battling to the dying seconds. The so-called smaller teams have shown they can hold their own. Iceland have held Portugal and Hungary, Albania took France to within minutes of a 0-0 draw, Northern Ireland beat Ukraine and nobody has made fools of themselves.

"From a competition perspective it is maybe the best we've had," Marchetti said. "As you know there were a lot of question marks about the format, but as we saw in the qualifiers, during which the competition was better than expected, we are having an open and competitive tournament."

But critics say a lot of small and middle-ranking teams are playing in a similar way by packing their defence and using spoiling tactics against their more illustrious opponents.

Compared to the two previous tournaments, where 60 and 57 goals were scored after 24 games, teams have only found the back of the net 47 times. Marchetti said that while every soccer fan wanted to see goals, there was less interest and excitement if games finished by three or four-goal margins. "Yes, less goals, but for me if more goals means more matches ending in 4-0 or 3-0, then the interest is not really there," he said. "Personally, I've found these 0-0s and 1-0s very exciting with teams fighting to the end. With the pattern of late goals changing games in the last minute, this is one of the successes of the tournament." — Reuters



LISBON: This combination of pictures created on June 20, 2016 shows Hungary's midfielder Zoltan Gera (L) on March 26, 2016 in Budapest and Portugal's for-

PORTUGAL NEEDS RONALDO TO FIND GOALS AGAINST HUNGARY

LYON: Underwhelming through two goalless games, Cristiano Ronaldo has another chance to shine. The Portugal forward has failed get his team going at the European Championship, even missing a penalty late in the 0-0 draw against Austria. But Ronaldo and his teammates still have a chance to reach to the round of 16 when they face Hungary tomorrow at Stade de Lyon.

"This isn't the first time this has happened in his career," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said. "In the past he has gone two or three matches without scoring, and then he would suddenly score a lot of goals, and I am completely convinced that this will happen."

Ronaldo, his nation's all-time leading scorer with 58 goals, came to France as the undisputed star of Euro 2016. Only Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic merits a mention when it comes to matching Ronaldo's attacking talent, scor-

ing totals, or - for better or worse - larger-then-life personality. But the 31-year-old Ronaldo has yet to produce the goals he scores with such apparent ease while playing for Real Madrid, which just over three weeks ago won the Champions League title. Instead, he showed his childish side when he belittled Iceland's defensive tactics after they held Portugal to a 1-1 draw in their opening match.

Ronaldo then blew a chance to get back on course on Saturday, when he sent a spot kick off the post with only 11 minutes remaining against Austria.

He said after the match that while he was proud to have surpassed Luis Figo's national team record with his 128th appearance for Portugal, he was disappointed by how he reached the milestone. "Obviously I'm a bit sad, because this wasn't the way I wanted to break this record," Ronaldo said. "The most beautiful way would have been to win, and we couldn't, we drew. So it was not how I envisaged it." Ronaldo also had to postpone plans to become the first player to score in four different European Championships. After wasting 180 minutes, he may only have 90 minutes left to add that achievement to his long list of awards, which includes three Ballon d'Or trophies. Group F leader Hungary looks like the perfect opponent for Ronaldo to uncork his scoring potential. But so did Iceland and Austria, only for him to err on all of his 22 shots. And Hungary has gained in confidence from a strong start to its first major tournament in 30 vears. The Hungarians have four points from their opening 2-0 win over Austria and 1-1 draw with Iceland. Portugal is in third place with two points, the same as second-place Iceland. Austria, which plays Iceland at the same time on Wednesday in Saint-Denis, is in last place with one point but

is still in contention for a spot in the round of 16. — AP

PUMA BLAMES FAULTY FABRIC FOR TORN SWISS JERSEYS

BERLIN: Kit manufacturer Puma said it had traced a problem with ripped shirts for the Swiss team at Euro 2016 to a defective batch of material used only in a limited number of home jerseys for the team.

During the goalless draw against France on Sunday, which saw Switzerland join Les Bleus into the knockout phase, at least four Swiss players had to go to the sidelines to swap their torn tops.

Germany-based Puma said analysis of the jerseys showed there was one batch of material where yarns had been damaged during production, making the garment weaker. "Puma has checked the inventory of all jerseys of all Puma teams and can assure that such an unfortunate incident does not happen again," it said in a statement on Monday. Alongside Switzerland, Puma also provides the kits for Austria, Czech Republic, Italy and Slovakia. Rival manufacturer Adidas, who provides kit to nine of the 24 teams competing in France, told Reuters that suppliers usually provide three shirts per player, per game.

"The standard usage for these shirts will be a player wears one in the first half, another in the second half with a third being saved as a spare, should it be needed on the pitch, or utilised as a giveaway item,"

unique match day customisation, hence the need to provide shirts on a match-by-match basis."

Asked if it was possible for a player to run out of shirts during a game, Schreiber referred back to football's European governing body.

"This is a process that is put in place by UEFA ...

although federations have a standard approach to utilising these jerseys, they can be used in any way

spokesperson Katja Schreiber said in an email. "Every shirt worn during the tournament will carry

required during the course of 90 minutes," she said.

TOURRETTES: Hungary's forward Nemanja Nikolic (R) jokes with kit manager Laszlo Hegyesi during a training session at the local stadium in Tourrettes, southeastern France, yesteday, during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

> son to change kit supplier, despite the odd rip."It can happen," he told reporters. "It means it was a fight on the pitch... Of course, today we had a lot, I can't say we have to change because Puma is great." — Reuters

Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer, who finished the game with his shirt intact after a man-of-the-match performance against the French, said he saw no rea-

MUELLER STEELS GERMANY FOR N IRELAND SCRAP

FAN FERVOR













PARIS: Thomas Mueller has defended Germany's misfiring forwards ahead of their pivotal final Euro 2016 Group C game against Northern Ireland today.

The world champions opened their campaign with a scratchy 2-0 win over Ukraine and then drew 0-0 with Poland, leaving them needing at least a point from their last pool match in Paris to be sure of a place in the next round.

Mario Goetze, who has been deployed as a 'false nine', is still to find the net, while playmaker Mesut Ozil has been criticised by former Germany midfielder Mehmet Scholl, but Mueller cites the defensive tactics his team have faced as a mitigating factor.

"They (Northern Ireland) will put a lot of players around their own penalty area and when 11 players defend together, it is never a walk in the park," said the Bayern Munich star. "I do not expect that it'll be a shooting fest for us. I wish it would be, but you have to be realistic." Former Germany captain Michael Ballack has taken Goetze and fellow striker Mario Gomez to task over their shortcomings in attack and has accused Loew's side of prioritising "beautiful football" over winning. Mueller, Germany's top scorer at the 2014 World Cup, is also yet to get off the mark in France, but he believes that criticism of the team's dis-

plays to date has been excessive. "You have rarely been impressed with our results, apart from the 7-1 against Brazil (in the World Cup semi-finals)," he told reporters. "We expect a good performance, but we can't guarantee the result. It's without question that we're favourites against Northern Ireland. I would take a tough win and tolerate what is written."

With Goetze having been withdrawn after 66 minutes against Poland in Paris, Gomez could be handed his first start of the tournament in place of the underperforming Bayern forward.

'WE DON'T FEAR THEM'

Jerome Boateng is expected to keep his place at centre-back despite a bruised hip, while Bastian Schweinsteiger is again likely to start on the bench as he builds up fitness following a knee ligament injury.

Regardless of Poland's result against eliminated Ukraine in Marseille, Northern Ireland need to win at Parc des Princes if they are to secure one of the two automatic qualifying spots.

But with three points in the bag already following Thursday's 2-0 win over Ukraine, Michael O'Neill's side could qualify as one of the four best third-place sides even if they lose. The win in Lyon, courtesy of secondhalf goals by Gareth McAuley and Niall McGinn, earned Northern Ireland a first major tournament success since the 1982 World Cup in Spain and forward Jamie Ward says it has given his side belief that they can hustle the Germans out of their stride.

"We know what Germany are all about and they have some of the best players in the world," said the Nottingham Forest player. "We respect them, but do not fear them. Our game is all about working hard and not giving people time on the ball. That might be different to what Germany have experienced before. "We know we will not dominate possession. Our strength is pressing and making life difficult for our opponents." Coach O'Neill made five changes for the win over Ukraine and must decide whether to restore Kyle Lafferty-his top scorer in qualifying-to the starting XI after Conor Washington took his place in Lyon.

The Irish Football Association has requested permission for Northern Ireland's players to wear black armbands in memory of 62-year-old supporter Robert Rainey, who died after reportedly suffering a heart attack during the game against Ukraine.

He became the second Northern Ireland fan to die at the tournament after 24-year-old Darren Rodgers fell to his death in Nice last Monday. — AFP

ALBANIA FACE WAIT AFTER HISTORIC WIN OVER ROMANIA

LYON: Armando Sadiku scored Albania's first goal at a major tournament in a historic 1-0 win over Romania on Sunday to keep alive their slender hopes of progressing to the Euro 2016 knockout phase. Sadiku headed home the game's only goal after 43 minutes in Lyon to leave debutants Albania facing an anxious wait to see if they qualify from Group A as one of the four best third-placed teams. Host nation France progressed as group winners following a 0-0 draw with second-placed Switzerland as Albania finished third on three points, but Romania exited with just a single point.

"I'm sure the Albanians are really happy. We're pleased to make people happy. This team has a big heart. They give everything, perhaps even a bit much at times," said Albania coach Gianni De Biasi.

"The players wanted to score again and we almost had to stop them because we needed to be sensible in the final few minutes. "Now we're going to prepare to possibly play a game on Friday or Saturday." Romania coach Anghel Iordanescu made wholesale changes as Alexandru Matel replaced the injured Razvan Rat at leftback with Denis Alibec handed a start up front.

Ovidiu Hoban, Adrian Popa and Nicolae Stanciu were all recalled after the 1-1 draw with Switzerland, while Albania brought in Migjen Basha in place of the suspended Burim Kukeli in midfield.

However, there was no room in the starting line-up for skipper Lorik Cana following his return from a onematch ban having been sent off in his team's opening game. Stanciu fired over with an early long-range strike as Romania signalled their intentions, before a nervy Etrit Berisha smothered Hoban's tame strike at the second attempt. Albania were fortunate Basha stayed on the pitch when he caught Hoban with a dangerous shoulder-high lunge after just six minutes, but they had to weather the storm as Romania continued to threaten.

BAR DENIES ANDONE

Bogdan Stancu, scorer of both Romania's goals in their first two games, connected sweetly with a poor headed clearance with his volley batted away unconvincingly by Berisha.

Alibec then curled narrowly wide from distance, but



DECINES-CHARPIEU: Albanian players deflect a free kick during the Euro 2016 Group A soccer match between Romania and Albania at the Grand Stade in Decines-Charpieu, near Lyon, France, Sunday. — AP

Albania started to impose themselves on the counterattack as Ermir Lenjani skied over from point-blank range, although his blushes were spared by the offside flag. Ledian Memushaj shot straight at Ciprian Tatarusanu from a narrow angle, but the Romania goalkeeper was at fault as Sadiku nodded Albania ahead just before half-time.

Memushaj's driven right-wing cross was misjudged by Tatarusanu, who was left out of position as Sadiku headed back across goal to trigger wild celebrations among the sizeable Albanian support inside the Stade de Lyon. Memushaj forced Tatarusanu into a low save on the hour as Albania pressed for a second, but their dreams were nearly shattered when substitute Florin Andone rattled the crossbar on 76 minutes.

The Cordoba striker raced through after a slick passing move only for his powerful strike to smack against the woodwork. Albania, who lost 1-0 to Switzerland before going down 2-0 to France in their first two games, must wait until the completion of the final round of group matches before finding out if they qualify for the last 16. — AFP

LAST-16 BERTH IN SIGHT FOR POLAND PAST UKRAINE

MARSEILLE: Robert Lewandowski's Poland take on already eliminated Ukraine today in the final Euro 2016 Group C match for both sides with a draw enough to take the Poles through to the knockout stages. Even a defeat would suffice for coach Adam Nawalka's side if Northern Ireland lose to Germany, who Poland held to a scoreless draw in the Stade de France in Paris on Thursday.

The Poles will look to fine-tune their attack as having scored 33 goals in qualifying, more than any other team, they have hit the net just once in two games at Euro 2016. With Bayern Munich superstar Lewandowski yet to open his account, his strike partner Arkadiusz Milik stepped up against the Northern Irish to score their only tournament goal to date.

Despite Lewandowski's second blank in a row against the Germans, Nawalka has praised his star man's work ethic which he says is opening up more opportunities for Milik.

"Robert Lewandowski in every single match is incredibly important for our gameplan," Nawalka said after the Germany game. The win against Northern



MARSEILLE: Poland's players warm up during a training session at the Robert-Louis Dreyfus stadium in Marseille, southern France, on Sunday, a day ahead of their Euro 2016 group C football match against Ukraine. — AFP

UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP Ukraine v Poland 19:00 beIN MAX 2 HD **Northern Ireland v Germany** 19:00 belN MAX 3 HD EN belN MAX 1 HD

Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

22:00

beIN MAX 2 HD **COPA AMERICA CENTENARIO**

Czech Republic v Turkey

Tomorrow United States v Argentina 4:00 beIN SPORTS

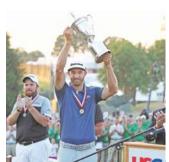
Ireland was Poland's first ever European head-to-head advantage. A glum Taras Stepanenko Championship victory, and by making it to the last-16 they would qualify for a knock-out round for the first time in three appearances at the tournament. With no serious injury issues, Nawalka's only headache is whether to start Bartosz Kapustka who earned plaudits when he came on as a substitute against the Irish. With two defeats against Germany and Northern Ireland, disappointing Ukraine became the first team to be eliminated, and have only pride to play for in the Stade Velodrome.

Even if Mykhaylo Fomolenko's team beats Poland they cannot overtake the third-placed Irish, as Michael O'Neill's side would remain above Ukraine on

said after the Irish defeat that Ukraine had failed their "do-or-die" test.

"We need to defend the honour of our team, the country and ourselves," he told Uefa.com "And we are playing against our neighbours, Poland - it's a derby and of course we'd like to go home with some positive emotions. We'd like to play good football and get a result". Both countries co-hosted the last European Championships in 2012 but both exited at the group stage. The Marseille clash will be the first meeting in a major tournament between the sides. Ukraine are unbeaten in the last five meetings against their opponents today. — AFP

Johnson wins US Open for his first major title



Portugal needs Ronaldo to score against Hungary



TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2016

GOLDEN OLDIE 'KAZU' BREAKS GOAL RECORD - AT 49

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OAKLAND: Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, right, shoots against Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green during the second half of Game 7 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Sunday. The Cavaliers won 93-89. (Inset) LeBron James sits down to answer questions with his daughter Zhuri during a post-game press conference after Game 7 of basketball's NBA Finals. — AP

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS WIN NBA TITLE

Warriors stunned as record-win season ends in epic collapse

OAKLAND: LeBron James delivered one of his mightiest allaround performances and the Cleveland Cavaliers completed the greatest comeback in NBA Finals history Sunday, dethroning defending champion Golden State 93-89 to capture their first league title.

James scored 27 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and passed off 11 assists to win the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award for the third time in his career as the Cavaliers became the first club to rally from a 3-1 deficit to win the best-of-seven series title.

"We were able to put together some spectacular games down 3-1," a tearful James said moments after the victory. "This is special. "I kept that positive attitude. I don't know why we had to take the hard road. Against all odds."

Kyrie Irving added 26 points, including the crucial 3pointer with 52 seconds remaining to give Cleveland the lead for good, as the Cavaliers took the series 4-3 and brought Cleveland its first major sports champion since the 1964 NFL Browns, ending the longest such title drought for any American city.

after the frantic final seconds. "King" James had only the third statistical "triple double" in the seventh game of an NBA Finals, joining Jerry West in 1969 and James Worthy in 1988. James, in his sixth consecutive finals and seventh overall, led the series with 29.7 points, 11.3 rebounds and 8.7 assists plus more than two steals and two blocked shots a game-the greatest all-around numbers ever produced with a crown on the line. Only two other clubs down 3-1 in the finals had ever forced a seventh game, none in 50 years until the Cavaliers epic comeback.

It was only the fourth time in 19 NBA Finals seventh games that the road team won, the first time since Washington captured the 1978 title in Seattle.

Golden State suffered the worst choke in NBA Finals history after having won an NBA record 73 regular-season games. "It sucks," said Draymond Green, who led the Warriors with 32 points. "It hurts to lose when you had a 3-1 lead." The winner-take-all showdown captured the attention of US President Barack Obama, who watched the end of the game

"Cleveland, this is for you," James screamed on the court on Air Force One after returning from a family trip, and commanded high-priced fans, courtside tickets with a face value of \$8,500 being resold for as much as \$49,500. Fans saw a thriller after six lopsided prior outcomes in the historic series. James made three free throws and added a 3-pointer to give the Cavaliers an 89-87 lead, but Klay Thompson's layup lifted the Warriors level with 4:39 to play. The teams each went six possessions without scoring after that, time and again thwarting their rivals until Irving's 3-pointer.

After another Cavaliers' stop, James was fouled by Green as he tried for a title-clinching slam dunk. Instead, he made a free throw to produce the final margin and the Warriors could not close the gap in the dying seconds.

The Warriors had not lost three games in a row since 2013. NBA scoring leader Steph Curry had 17 points while fellow Warriors 3-point sharpshooter Thompson managed only 14. The Warriors took their biggest lead at 54-46 but back-to-back 3-pointers by J.R. Smith and an Irving layup pulled the Cavaliers level early in the third quarter.

Curry scored the next five points but then went 0-for-4

with three turnovers over more than three minutes and Cleveland went on an 14-2 run, Irving scoring 10 in the spurt that gave the Cavaliers a 68-61 advantage.

MOMENTUM SWINGS

Back came Golden State, Green hitting three free throws and a 32-pointer in a 15-7 run to seize a 76-75 edge entering

the fourth quarter after 17 lead changes and nine ties. Green scored 22 first-half points, hitting 8-of-10 shots from the floor and 5-of-5 from 3-point range after an 0-for-10 showing from beyond the arc in his prior three games.

Green had four 3-pointers and a 3-point play in the second quarter and scored nine points in a 12-5 run that gave Golden State a 47-40 lead.

He also had six rebounds and five assists in sparking Golden State to a 49-42 half-time edge as Warriors top scorers Thompson and Curry combined to shoot 5-of-17 overall and 3-of-12 in 3-pointers. James led the Cavaliers in the first half with 12 points, eight rebounds and five assists but also made four turnovers. — AFP

POGBA SHINES AS FRANCE TOP EURO 2016 GROUP

France secured top spot in Euro 2016 Group A following a subdued 0-0 draw with Switzerland in Lille on Sunday. A game that featured a substandard pitch, ripped Switzerland shirts and a burst ball concluded in a mutually convenient result that allowed the Swiss to join Didier Deschamps's France in the last 16.

But Pogba, dogged by controversy over an alleged contentious gesture prior to the game, did his best to illuminate proceedings, twice hitting the bar, as did French substitute Dimitri Payet late in the game. "We were there to secure first place and we did it, so it's mission accomplished," France coach Deschamps told M6 television. "Had we been a bit more clinical or had more luck, we could have won."

As group winners, France will face the third-place team in either Group C, D or E in Lyon on June 26, while Switzerland will come up against either Germany, Poland or Northern Ireland a day earlier. It was mission accomplished, therefore, for France, but following narrow wins over Romania and Albania, their failure to record a seventh consecutive victory means they advance with little momentum. "I'm not blind, I do realize that we can do better," added Deschamps. "Now a new competition is going to start for us next Sunday. We have a long week ahead of us and that will give us time to prepare." A dry, patchy pitch at Stade Pierre-Mauroy made it difficult for both teams to get the ball down and play football, but aside from a few slips, Pogba did not seemed perturbed by the conditions underfoot. One of five players brought into the France team by Deschamps, in changes

LILLE: Paul Pogba shone through the mediocrity as hosts that saw in-form playmaker Payet left on the bench, the Juventus star seemed determined to erase the memory of his alleged 'bras d'honneur' following Payet's second goal in Wednesday's 2-0 win over Albania. Deployed in his preferred position on the left of a midfield three, he threatened three times in five minutes, forcing Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer to produce a sharp save in between two efforts that clipped the bar from outside the box.

PAYET OVATION

He also provided the first half's only real moment of danger in the French penalty area when he unintentionally scuffed Xherdan Shaqiri's eighth-minute corner towards his own goal. The ball struck Swiss centre-back Johan Djourou, sprawled on the French goal-line, and Pogba hacked clear. Pogba aside, Switzerland's biggest concern in the first period was the flimsiness of their shirts as Admir Mehmedi, Granit Xhaka and Breel Embolo all had big holes torn in theirs.

Switzerland began to find joy behind French full-backs Bacary Sagna and Patrice Evra in the second half, but the chances continued to fall to France. Andre-Pierre Gignac shot straight at Sommer, while Pogba excelled again by holding off four opponents and finding Antoine Griezmann, who played a one-two with Gignac before seeing a right-foot shot tipped over by Sommer. Payet made his entrance in the 63rd minute, replacing Kingsley Coman, and received a huge ovation from France's fans, who were eager to see greater guile in their team's



VILLENEUVE D'ASCQ: France's Paul Pogba, center, heads the ball between Switzerland's Xherdan Shaqiri, left, and Admir Mehmedi during the Euro 2016 Group A soccer match between Switzerland and France at the Pierre Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq, near Lille, France, Sunday. — AP

Japan returns to trade deficit in as yen soars

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Global stocks rise as **Brexit worries ebb**

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Nigerian naira sinks 23% after currency peg ends

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NON-OIL ACTIVITY BULLISH IN QATAR

A320AIRBUS

HYDERABAD: Indian visitors gather around Airbus aircraft scale models at the India Aviation 2016 airshow at Begumpet airport in Hyderabad. India yesterday announced a sweeping relaxation of foreign direct investment (FDI) rules

INDIA EASES FDI RULES AS CB CHIEF LEAVES

Way cleared for Apple, full foreign ownership in defense, civil aviation

NEW DELHI: India announced yesterday sweeping reforms to rules on foreign direct easier terms for investors in sectors ranging from civil aviation to pharmaceuticals.

The move comes two days after central bank governor Raghuram Rajan, a darling of financial markets but under pressure from political opponents at home, announced he would not seek another term, a surprise move that raised concerns about whether reforms he set in motion would stall. "These changes are fairly significant, particularly if you look at them in the context of what happened over the weekend with Governor Rajan's decision to step down," said Shilan Shah, India economist at Capital Economics in Singapore.

"It might be the government's way to illustrate its commitment to reforms and mitigate any investor fallout." Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the changes to foreign direct investment (FDI) rules, tweeting they would make India "the most open economy in the world for FDI" and provide a "major impetus to employment and job creation".

Modi, 65, has pitched to global business to come and "Make in India" since winning power investment, clearing the way for Apple to two years ago. His government has touted a open stores in the country and announcing 29 percent rise in FDI to \$40 billion in the fiscal year to March as proof the policies are gaining traction. Yet, with India ranking 130th in the World Bank's latest Ease of Doing Business index, multinationals remain cautious amid lingering concerns about bureaucratic red tape and unpredictable tax officials.

The last time Modi loosened FDI rules was after his nationalist party suffered a heavy defeat in a state election last autumn. Some companies welcomed the news, but others and industry analysts said changes in several industries appeared limited and the headlinegrabbing announcement was more about seeking to wrest back control of the economic narrative. For example, while the new rules allow 100 percent FDI in civil aviation, investment by foreign airlines in domestic carriers remains capped at 49 percent.

Another new rule allows foreign companies to invest up to 74 percent in 'brownfield', or existing, pharmaceuticals projects without government approval. But previous rules



MUMBAI: An Indian motorist riding past a wall bearing the image of the mascot for 'Make in India Week' in Mumbai. — AFP

allowed 100 percent foreign ownership if government approval was obtained, and analysts doubted the change would have a big

The new rules, however, do offer relief for single-brand retailers such as Apple and furniture giant IKEA that are finding it tough to

meet India's requirement for them to sell at

least 30 percent locally sourced goods. CEO Tim Cook visited India last month on a mission to expand Apple's presence in the world's fastest-growing smartphone market, at a time when sales in the United States and China have slowed.

Under the relaxed norms, Apple would have three years to meet the sourcing rules with an extension of another five years if its products are judged "state-of-art" and "cutting edge". The new regime also seeks to attract defense contractors hitherto reluctant to transfer technology to India. They would be able to own local operations outright, with government approval, up from a cap of 49 percent previously - although again some industry sources said this did not mark a big change.

Saab, the Swedish defense and aerospace company that recently re-pitched its Gripen fighter jet to the Indian Air Force, welcomed the announcement. "We think this is a very good move and this decision by the government only encourages us to start our business in India," said Robert Hewson, Saab's Asia-Pacific head of communications. — Reuters

CHINA'S XI WEAVES POLAND INTO 'NEW SILK ROAD' PLAN

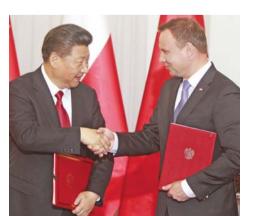
WARSAW: Chinese President Xi Jinping drummed up investment and trade with Poland yesterday as the European Union's largest eastern economy eyes financing by the Asian giant. Xi and Polish President Andrzej Duda inked a broad strategic partnership deal on political and economic cooperation, part of Beijing's much vaunted efforts of establishing land and sea links for European trade, known as the "Belt and Road" policy. Poland is China's largest trade partner in eastern Europe and in 2015 bilateral trade reached \$17.1 billion (15.2 billion euros), according to Chinese figures.

But there is a chronic imbalance in favour of Beijing and Warsaw's main objective is to change that. Xi on Monday urged Poland to "fully take advantage of its position as a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank" (AIIB) to do business. Launched by China in January, the AIIB includes several European countries among its members but the United States and Japan declined to join. It is viewed by some as a rival to the World Bank.

Calling the AIIB the "world's largest investment fund", Polish deputy prime minister Mateusz Morawiecki told reporters that Warsaw was discussing "massive investments" with Beijing. "It is certainly still too early to say we've reached some kind of conclusion," he said, revealing only that "multi-billion sums" were involved.

New Silk Road

The intensification of ties with Beijing is rooted in Warsaw's "need for capital and export markets beyond Europe, because of the upcoming decrease in EU funds and saturation of the European market," said Justyna Szczudlik, an ana-



WARSAW: China's President Xi Jinping (left) and his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda shake hands after signing a cooperation treaty between China and Poland in the presidential palace in Warsaw yesterday. —AP

lyst with the Warsaw-based Polish Institute of International Affairs. The sides also concluded other lower level bilateral deals, including boosting Polish food products, notably apples, on the Chinese market.

The Chinese are interested in Polish food products, electronics, renewable energy technology, auto manufacturing and white goods. But a 2014 Chinese ban on Polish pork, imposed after an outbreak of African swine fever, remains intact. Xi, who is on a three-nation tour, and Duda will attend the New Silk Road Forum 2016, an international trade fair bringing together

Chinese and European entrepreneurs. Poland's deputy development minister Radoslaw Domagalski said Warsaw was prepared to set up special investment zones "as gateways

for Chinese capital into Poland." A nation of 38 million people, Poland remains one of the EU's most vibrant economies, clocking uninterrupted annual growth since it shed communism in 1989. GDP is set to expand by around 3.7 percent this vear and next.

Chinese been slow to invest

Poland wants to use the "train connection between the town of Lodz in central Poland with Chengdu in Sichuan province to export to China more Polish agricultural products" like milk, meat and apples, Professor Bogdan Goralczyk, an expert at Warsaw University, told AFP. Xi and Duda will meet a freight train rolling into the Polish capital from China on Monday after a 13day trip from Chengdu.

Trains began running between China and Poland in 2013. The journey lasts 11-14 day, a fraction of the 40-50 day transit by sea. The rail link-one of the world's longest-is part of China's "new silk road", touted as a revival of the ancient Silk Road trade route.

Chinese activity in central and eastern Europe is rooted in the "16+1 Forum" for cooperation between 16 ex-communist eastern European states and China, launched in 2012 in Warsaw.

At the time, Beijing vowed to commit a total of \$10.5 billion in credit lines and funds to boost economic ties with the region, but analysts say the capital injections have been slow

According to Poland's PAIZ foreign investment agency chief Bartlomiej Pawlak there are currently around 900 companies with Chinese capital registered in Poland, but he admits that so far, there has been a "lack of spectacular Chinese investment". — AFP

ABU DHABI FALLS AS **MOST BANKS RETREAT**

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Stock markets in the Middle East were mixed yesterday as Abu Dhabi's bankled rally ended and Egypt continued its descent, dragged down by tightening monetary policy.

On Sunday Abu Dhabi's index had surged 4.7 percent as merger talks between National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank ignited speculation about consolidation in the sector, boosting bank shares. But on Monday the speculation cooled and the index pulled back 1.0 percent.

Shares in FGB retreated 3.4 percent, after an 11.5 percent gain on Sunday. Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank dropped 4.4 percent after rising 4.6 percent on the previous day. But NBAD's shares continued to climb and added 4.4 percent, taking their gains over two days to 20 percent.

Many investors have been assuming that any share swap in a merger would favour NBAD holders. Arqaam Capital suggested a ratio of 1.15 NBAD for 1 FGB share, though SICO Bahrain estimated 1.4-1.5 shares of NBAD to 1 share of FGB. "We believe that merger through share-swap agreement between NBAD and FGB is the most realistic option. Without the due-diligence report and other details currently, we have limited information to be conclusive," said SICO.

Meanwhile Dubai's index climbed 0.3 percent in low volumes with builder Arabtec, the most traded stock, adding 1.5 percent, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT

Saudi Arabia's index also gained 0.3 percent in modest trading volume. Builder Abdullah Al Khodari advanced 1.2 percent on hopes the construction sector is due for a surge in demand because of the 2.5 percent tax on undeveloped urban commercial and residential land approved by the cabinet late last week. The tax may push more land out into the market where it can be developed. But companies with large land banks could lose; NCB Capital said in a note that the tax would have a negative impact on Dar Al Arkan, as annual fees on its current land bank would be between 137 million and 160 million riyals (\$36.5 million and \$42.7 million). The stock fell 0.8 percent.

Egypt's main index came off early lows but closed down 1.8 percent at 7,204 points, breaking technical support on the April and May lows of 7,276-7,327 points. That triggered a complex head & shoulders pattern formed by the highs and lows since March and pointing down to around 6,700 points. Telecom Egypt (TE) dropped 2.1 percent after the industry's regulator said it was selling 4G licenses under a long-awaited plan to reform the sector while letting mobile operators, such as Vodafone Egypt, offer fixed-line services, ending TE's domi-

nation of the sector. A note by Cairo-based Naeem Brokerage said the competition in fixed-line licences could be a cause of concern for Telecom Egypt in the long run as the wholesale business could take a hit. But Naeem continues to rate the stock a "buy". Vodafone Egypt, which could now face more competition in mobile, slumped 7.5 percent. — Reuters

NIGERIAN NAIRA SINKS 23% AFTER CURRENCY PEG ENDS

THIN TRADE AS NEW OPEN MARKET FRETS ABOUT LIQUIDITY

LAGOS: Nigeria's naira slumped 23 percent against the US dollar yesterday after the central bank removed its currency peg to alleviate chronic foreign currency shortages choking economic growth. The naira traded just twice at 255 against the dollar, and less than \$1 million had changed hands by 12:22 p.m. (1122 GMT), Thomson Reuters data showed, as dealers said they were nervous about foreign exchange liquidity under the new system.

Yesterday's rate was sharply weaker than the 197 peg the central bank had been maintaining for the past 16 months, then abandoned last week in a bid to alleviate chronic forex shortages. Naira market trading will close at 12 pm (1300 GMT). Black market currency dealers were quoting the naira in a spread between 325-345 naira to the dollar, up to 10 percent stronger than on Friday on expectations more forex liquidity on the interbank market would reduce demand on the street.

The central bank has said it may inject foreign exchange into the interbank market to boost liquidity and traders could be holding off in the hope of these dollar inflows. If the central bank chooses to enter the market, the naira is likely to weaken further. "They have the room for discretionary FX interventions, and we don't know how active they are in the market today, so the next days will show where the real equilibrium is," said Jonas David, emerging markets specialist at UBS Wealth Management "We should not be surprised by further weakening."

Nigeria's central bank asked banks yesterday to submit bids for foreign exchange to cover a backlog of previous unfilled orders sent to the central bank, traders said. Bids ranged between 210-290 naira to the dollar, they said. The central bank has said there is a \$4 billion backlog of demand which could take 4 weeks to clear.

Nigeria's central bank is "reasonably optimistic" the naira will settle at around 250 to the dollar after an initial period of weakness following a flotation, the bank's



LAGOS: A money changer counts Nigerian naira currency at a bureau de change, in Lagos. Nigeria will float its embattled naira currency, the Central Bank governor announced on June 15, 2016 after months of pressure to control a spiraling crisis in Africa's biggest economy. Gov Godwin Emefiele told reporters the naira rate will be "marketdriven" from June 20. — AP

governor said in a June 3 letter to President Muhammadu Buhari.

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Foreign investors and economists had called for a naira devaluation for months as the forex shortages hit economic growth and led to widespread capital flight. The central bank said last week it would abandon the peg in a "managed float". The median forecast from 10 analysts surveyed by Reuters suggests it will could trade on Monday as weak as 300 per dollar.

Africa's biggest economy, which con-strains in the balance of payments by distracted by 0.4 percent in the first quarter, faces its worst crisis in decades after the decline in oil prices since 2014 and last year's introduction of a currency peg.

With a likely sharp fall for the naira, Nigerian products will become relatively cheap and imports more expensive, which should stimulate the domestic economy but will likely light a fire under already rising inflation. "The new system should reduce the shortage of FX in the economy and - in the long run - reduce lapsed. —Reuters

couraging imports and boosting export competitiveness," Capital Economics' John Ashbourne said.

"But the new system certainly does not mark the end of Nigeria's economic problems." Nigeria, Africa's largest crude exporter, has resisted devaluing its currency for more than a year despite other major oil producers, including Russia, Kazakhstan and Angola, allowing currencies to fall after crude prices col-

News

in brief

US dollar edges down to KD 0.300 against dinar

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar went down to KD 0.300, while the euro went up to reach KD 0.341 yesterday, compared to Sunday's rates, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The CBK said in its daily bulletin that the exchange rate of the Sterling Pound increased to stand at KD 0.438, while the Swiss Franc stabilized at KD 0.313. The Japanese yen was unchanged at KD 0.002.

MOJIL Board quits after three sentenced

DUBAI: An effort to restructure debt-burdened Saudi builder Mohammad Al-Mojil Group (MMG) was thrown into doubt yesterday when the firm said its board had resigned after three people involved with the company were sentenced to jail. Last week, Saudi Arabia's stock market regulator fined MMG 1.6 billion riyals (\$427 million) and sentenced three people, including founder Mohammad Al-Mojil, to jail on charges of manipulation and fraud relating to the firm's initial public offer of shares. In a statement yesterday, MMG said the decision by the Committee for the Resolution of Securities Disputes was based on "fundamentally flawed" evidence and had severely hurt the board's ability to run the company. "The decision to resign is, in part, due to their serious concerns about the unlimited director and executive liabilities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," the statement said, without saying what the company would do next.

Saudi buys 315,000 tons of hard wheat

ABU DHABI: Saudi Arabia's main state grain agency bought 315,000 tons of hard wheat in a tender, the Saudi Grains Organization (SAGO) said yesterday. The wheat is for shipment during September, SAGO said in a statement. The wheat purchased was of European, North American and Australian origin at the seller's option, SAGO director Ahmad al-Fares said. The tender had been for wheat with 12.5 percent protein content. The wheat was purchased in five consignments for shipments to the ports of Jeddah and Dammam, Fares said. Of the total, 190,000 tons are for Jeddah port and 125,000 tons for Dammam. "I think wheat from the Baltic Sea region is likely to be used to source the Jeddah shipments," one European trader said. "This could include wheat from Germany, the Baltic States and Poland." "The Baltic region as a whole is looking price competitive for the quality Saudi Arabia requires."

OIL RALLIES AS FEARS OVER BREXIT ABATE

weaker dollar after polls showed a Tchilinguirian said. diminishing chance that Britain may vote to leave the European Union later

August Brent crude futures were up 85 cents at \$50.02 a barrel by 1055 GMT, set for a gain of 6 percent in two trading days. NYMEX crude for July delivery, which expires today, was up 80 cents at \$48.78 a barrel. Campaigning for Britain's vote on EU membership resumed on Sunday after a three-day hiatus prompted by the killing of a pro-

Three opinion polls ahead of Thursday's vote showed the 'Remain' camp recovering some momentum, although the overall picture remained one of an evenly split electorate.

Investment safe havens such as gold, the US dollar, German bonds and the Swiss franc came under pressure, while oil looked set for its largest two-day rise in a month and the likes of copper and equities rallied. "For oil as a risky asset, what we've seen are intraday gyrations that are coming from the spillover effects of 'riskon/risk-off' moves that follow the poll

LONDON: Oil rallied yesterday, lifted by numbers," BNP Paribas global head of a wave of investor confidence and a commodity strategy Harry

> The pound climbed 1.6 percent to \$1.4589, extending a recovery from last Thursday's more than two-month trough of \$1.4013. "With Brexit dominating the market headlines, it might be moves in the U.S. dollar that drive the oil market at least until we get that out of the way," said Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets in Sydney. "It's likely to be a nervous and skittish week's trading."

> Oil prices continued to recover despite data showing US energy firms adding oil rigs for a third week in a row, suggesting higher production to come. Oil services firm Baker Hughes reported nine rig additions in the week to June 17. Aside from Brexit concerns, the market is likely to be caught in a range as any gains would likely be limited by the return of more shale drillers in the United States, CMC's McCarthy said. "Capping market gains at the moment is the potential for those very agile U.S. producers to jump back into production should we see any further substantial rises," he said. —Reuters

> > Canadian dollar

RUSSIAN BANK TRIO TO ROLL OUT ISLAMIC FINANCE PRODUCTS

Russian banks aim to introduce a number of Islamic financial products this year that ing division. could increase pressure for Russian authorities to create a legal framework facilitating the industry. Russian banks' balance sheets have been strained by an economic crisis and Western-imposed sanctions, encouraging efforts to develop sharia-compliant finance to attract investors from the Gulf and southeast Asia.

But Russia does not have a large Muslim population to provide a ready-made customer base; only about 20 million of its roughly 145 million people are Muslims. So progress rests on a handful of pilot projects and the willingness of regulators to pass legislation that would make Islamic finance cost-effective. Those efforts received a boost last month when Russian lenders Vnesheconombank, Sberbank and Tatfondbank signed agreements with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to support their initiatives.

Russia's central bank has signed a similar agreement with the Saudi-based IDB, a multilateral lender which is one of the world's

largest issuers of Islamic bonds. There is now political will for Islamic finance to develop in Russia. The ice has broken and people now understand that Islamic banking products can be in demand," said

Chinese Yuan Renminbi

Thai Bhat

Turkish Lira

MOSCOW/ SYDNEY: Three state-linked Maxim Osintsev, an executive director at Vnesheconombank has identified structures Sberbank's corporate and investment bank- it can use to support export-import deals

> assets, aims to help to raise between \$200 million and \$300 million for a client this year via Islamic finance, which complies with religious principles such as a ban on interest payments, Osintsev said. The IDB is backing those efforts, assigning teams to support each institution with legal and regulatory advice, said Ahmed Fayed Al Gebali, director of the IDB's Islamic financial services department.

Taxation issues are often an obstacle to Islamic finance deals, which can attract double or triple tax duties since they require multiple transfers of underlying assets.

"Legislation is a major issue-there is still no definition of Islamic finance in the Russian legal system," Linar Yakupov, head of the Association of Regional Investment Agencies of the Russian Federation, said. "These new efforts will create new impetus. It's a step forward but there is still more to do."

PILOT TRANSACTIONS development

State bank Vnesheconombank could be first to reach the market as it is governed under a different federal law than other local banks, allowing it to avoid tax hurdles.

and project financing with a pilot transac-Sberbank, the country's largest lender by tion of around \$100 million planned for the autumn, the bank said in response to Reuters questions.

> There is also a desire to raise funds from Russia's Muslim population and from countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) which have large Muslim populations. In March, Tatfondbank opened a participation banking centre in the Tatarstan capital of Kazan which it aims to develop further with support from the IDB, the bank said. Participation banking does not use interest.

> Tatfondbank said its corporate clients would soon have access to Islamic project financing and it planned to set up correspondent banking links with firms in CIS countries.

> Beyond the three banks, there is growing interest from around 20 other financial institutions in Russia, said Yakupov, also president of the Kazan-based Islamic Business and Finance Development Fund (IBFD). The IBFD is working with asset managers to introduce Islamic mutual funds that would channel money into Russian companies, including those in halal industries such as food preparation. It aims to launch a fund by the end of the year, Yakupov said. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAI	ni Exchange (Co.
CURRENCY ASI	BUY AN COUNTRIES	SELL
Japanese Yen	2.901	
Indian Rupees	4.499	
Pakistani Rupees	2.885	
Srilankan Rupees	2.085	
Nepali Rupees	2.815	
Singapore Dollar	224.670	
Hongkong Dollar	38.911	
Bangladesh Taka	3.850	
Philippine Peso	6.515	
Thai Baht	8.587	
GG	CC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.563	
Qatari Riyal	82.987	
ani Riyal	784.693	
Bahraini Dinar	802.310	
UAE Dirham	82.253	
AR	AB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	30.750	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.393	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.213	
Tunisian Dinar	140.440	
Jordanian Dinar	425.640	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.013	
Syrian Lira	2.153	
Morocco Dirham	31.552	

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

301.950

342.710

435.410

US Dollar Transfer

Sterling Pound

Turkish lira 103.760 Swiss France 316.680 Australian Dollar 224.800 **US Dollar Buying** 300.750 GOLD 20 Gram 261.630 10 Gram 133,730 5 Gram 67.710

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

74.660

235.530

BOLLINGO	LACIBUIGE
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.150
Canadian Dollar	234.580
Sterling Pound	434.417
Euro	341.614
Swiss Frank	290.995
Bahrain Dinar	799.567
UAE Dirhams	82.490
Qatari Riyals	83.730
Saudi Riyals	81.290
Jordanian Dinar	426.475
Egyptian Pound	33.929
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.087
Indian Rupees	4.496
Pakistani Rupees	2.884
Bangladesh Taka	3.846
Philippines Pesso	6.512
Cyprus pound	581.242
Japanese Yen	3.893
Syrian Pound	2.391
Nepalese Rupees	3.807

. Malaysian Ringgit

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY **CURRENCY SELL** BUY Europe **British Pound** 0.427728 0.437728 Czech Korune 0.004580 0.016580 Danish Krone 0.041763 0.046763 Euro 0.0335657 0.0344657 Norwegian Krone 0.032156 0.037356 Romanian Leu 0.086602 0.086602 0.008983 0.018983 Slovakia Swedish Krona 0.032301 0.037301 Swiss Franc 0.308569 0.319569 Turkish Lira 0.097705 0.108005 Australasia 0.227490 Australian Dollar 0.215490 New Zealand Dollar 0.207099 0.216599 America Canadian Dollar 0.238124 0.229124 **US Dollars** 0.297800 0.302500 **US Dollars Mint** 0.298300 0.302500 Asia Bangladesh Taka 0.003378 0.003962 0.044345 0.047845 Chinese Yuan Hong Kong Dollar 0.038652 0.039602 0.004210 Indian Rupee 0.004620

46.243

9.536

0.504

0.000018 0.000024 Indonesian Rupiah Japanese Yen 0.002814 0.002994 Kenvan Shilling 0.003105 0.003105 Korean Won 0.000248 0.000263 Malaysian Ringgit 0.070005 0.076005 0.002847 0.003017 Nepalese Rupee Pakistan Rupee 0.002737 0.003027 0.006696 0.006396 Philippine Peso 0.000067 0.000073 Sierra Leone Singapore Dollar 0.218857 0.228857 South African Rand 0.013949 0.022449 0.002247 Sri Lankan Rupee 0.001667 0.009216 0.009396 Thai Baht 0.008214 0.008764 Arab Bahraini Dinar 0.794227 0.802727 **Egyptian Pound** 0.027294 0.032412 Iranian Riyal 0.000084 0.000085 Iragi Dinar 0.000180 0.000240 Jordanian Dinai 0.421800 0.430800 Kuwaiti Dinar 1.000000 1.000000 Lebanese Pound 0.000146 0.000246 Moroccan Dirhams 0.020043 0.044043 Nigerian Naira 0.001243 0.001878 Omani Riyal 0.777736 0.783416 0.083563 Oatar Rival 0.082113 Saudi Riyal 0.079420 0.080720 Syrian Pound 0.001279 0.001499

0.137243

0.097705

0.080771

0.001364

0.145243

0.108005

0.082471

0.001444

Tunisian Dinar

Turkish Lira

UAE Dirhams

Yemeni Rival



STRASBOURG: People walking past a store's shop window announcing sales on the first day of the summer sales in Strasbourg, eastern France. Private sales and special offers already started before official France's summer sales on June 22. —AFP

AS INDIAN CB HEAD RETREATS, HIS LONG-TIME NEMESIS ADVANCES

NEW DELHI: With the shock retreat from public office of India's central bank chief comes the rise to international prominence of long-time nemesis Subramanian Swamy, a nationalist named to the upper house of parliament in April by the country's ruling party.



Raghuram Rajan

Swamy, a Harvard-educated economist, has a track record of criticizing Raghuram Rajan, whose decision on Saturday to step down as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor when his term ends in September rattled government officials and foreign investors. Even before Prime Minister Narendra Modi swept to power in 2014, Swamy was agitating for Rajan's removal.

"We can make it worthwhile for him to leave," he told Reuters at the time. The campaign gathered intensity since Swamy's romotion to the Rajya Sabha upper chamber, and his language has mirrored that of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the right-wing Hindu ideological parent of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

Modi had thrown his support behind Rajan, describing him as the "best teacher" for explaining economic issues and telling a meeting of finance ministry officials not to publicly question the RBI. That Rajan is now headed for the exit underlines both Swamy's mettle as a political antagonist and the balance Modi must strike between modernizing India's economy and appeasing his nationalist vote bank that leans towards protectionism.

Swamy, renowned for sometimes fiery campaigns against those who raise his ire, declined to speak to Reuters when approached at his home, or to answer text messages, since Rajan made his announcement. He did speak to ANI, a partner of Reuters Television, saying that "if he (Rajan) says that he wants to go and he wants to save his self-respect I have no problem. Let him pretend that he is giving up and going. But as long as he goes, it is good."

RSS GAMBIT

The RSS, an organization that works mostly behind the scenes but which preaches self-sufficiency and is suspicious of foreign influence, has made no secret of its desire to unseat Rajan, a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund now on leave from his professorship meeting with aides and the RSS earlier this year, Modi said that Swamy, who is on the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) national executive committee, should be kept out of government, according to two people who attended.

at the University of Chicago. During a

The RSS suggested that Swamy be given a spot in the Rajya Sabha, said a senior RSS leader who attended the meeting, and Modi relented. Less than a month after gaining his berth in parliament, Swamy wrote an open letter to Modi that questioned Rajan's loyalty to India as a holder of an American green card.

He accused the governor of an "apparently deliberate attempt" to "wreck the Indian economy." It was "in the national interest" to fire Rajan, Swamy wrote.

Swamy's own contradictions are not uncommon in Indian politics. He holds a doctorate in economics from Harvard and has lambasted others for their Western backgrounds, and gives frequent media interviews yet voices disdain for the press.

He does not shy from self-promotion, having long proclaimed his suitability to serve as India's finance minister. Swamy also appears to relish a fight, including taking on the Gandhi political dynasty and pushing for the construction of a Hindu temple at a disputed site. On his Twitter profile he notes: "I give as good as I get."

"RIGHT TO LEAVE"

His letter to Modi repeated a longstanding RSS complaint that by keeping interest rates relatively high, Rajan squeezed small- and medium-sized firms, mainstays of the organization. Also, in the RSS' view, by launching an aggressive campaign to clean up banks' nonperforming assets, Rajan further discouraged new loans to Indian businessmen, said an program hosted by the group.

"Rajan made the right decision to leave, because he was not in synch with the Indian economy," S. Gurumurthy, a senior member of the RSS' economic wing, told Reuters. "India does not need a celebrity or a popular economist, we need someone who can keep his head down and work. We need an economist who has witnessed rural distress."

Rajan has not given a full explanation for his decision to step down, but on Monday defended his actions at the RBI. While he has plenty of critics at home, Rajan is a favourite among foreign investors and has been credited for bringing inflation under control.

A person who worked closely with Rajan pointed to Swamy's words and the government's failure to push back publicly as a tipping point for the governor.

"He had cordial enough relations with the top leadership in the government," said the person, who asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue. "But these attacks by Swamy were too personal, and no self-respecting person can take that." Yesterday, with news of Rajan's departure still resonating, Modi took to social media to announce a series of reforms allowing more foreign direct investment in aviation, defence and retail. The changes came with a message from Modi: he was making "India the most open economy in the world." —Reuter

OIL PRICES UNDER PRESSURE AS HEDGE FUNDS ADJUST POSITIONS

LONDON: Hedge funds cut their net long position in the main crude futures and options contracts by 63 million barrels, 10 percent, in the week to June 14, as the rally in oil prices showed signs of running out of steam. The one-week reduction in the net long position was the largest since July 2014, according to an analysis of data published by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Intercontinental Exchange. Hedge funds and other money managers cut their combined net long position in the three main Brent and WTI futures and options contracts from a near-record 633 million barrels to 570 million.

The combined net long position in WTI on Intercontinental Exchange and the New York Mercantile Exchange was cut by 46 million barrels, 19 percent, to 198 million barrels. The net long position in Brent on the Intercontinental Exchange was cut by 17 million barrels, 4 percent, to 372 million. For some time, the concentration of bullish hedge fund positions has been one of the biggest short-term downside risk factors for oil prices ("Risks rise as hedge funds place record bet on oil", Reuters, May 3). If and when the hedge funds tried to take some of their profits from the big rise in prices during the first five months of the year by liquidating long positions, the rally was always in danger of a sharp reversal.

Some of the more tactically-minded hedge fund managers have been waiting for long liquidation as an opportunity to short the market aggressively.

Hedge funds' bullish long positions were cut by 34 million barrels in the week to June 14 but short positions increased by 30 million barrels.

Aggressive shorting of oil prices has been most noticeable in the NYMEX WTI contract, where the number of hedge fund short positions increased by 19 million barrels in the week to June 14.

Over the last 14 days, hedge fund short positions in NYMEX WTI rose by a total of 43 million barrels, more than 80 percent, from the previous low of just 53 million barrels. —Reuters

JAPAN RETURNS TO TRADE DEFICIT IN AS YEN SOARS

EXPORTS FALL IN ALL MAJOR REGIONS

TOKYO: Japan fell into a trade deficit in rising yen blamed as "the main reason", May, the first since January, the finance ministry said yesterday, as renewed yen strength pressured exports.

Japanese exports fell for all major regions, including the nation's biggest trading partner China, as concerns linger over a slowdown in the largest Asian economy as well as other emerging markets.

The government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has actively attempted to talk down the yen's strength, with ministers repeatedly suggesting that Tokyo could step into the market to weaken the currency, as they rush to safeguard the fragile economy ahead of a July parliamentary election.

A rising yen dents Japanese exports by making the country's products more expensive in overseas markets and thus less competitive. The currency, often seen as a safe haven, has broadly gained in recent months, partially on fears over the state of the global economy and more recently on concerns over a possible British exit from the European Union in a referendum this

Abe was also preparing to launch further stimulus, as his controversial big-spending and easy money policy blitz, known as "Abenomics", has failed to pull Japan out of its prolonged economic malaise more than three years after the programs began.

"The stronger yen lowered export revenues and rising energy prices lifted import values," said Marcel Thieliant, senior Japan economist at Capital Economics. Expected recovery of oil prices should pull Japan into further deficit in the future, he said.

For May, Japan logged a deficit of 40.72 billion yen (\$389 million), compared with a trade surplus of 823.18 billion yen in April, as exports of steel and semiconductors declined, the ministry said. However, it was smaller than the deficit of 215.35 billion yen seen in May 2015.

Exports fell 11.3 percent, marking the eighth straight monthly decline, with the

Thieliant said.

The value of steel shipments dropped 24.1 percent, while electronic parts such as semiconductors shrank 20.0 percent, the ministry said.

China-bound exports fell 14.9 percent, led by a dip in optical equipment exports such as lenses, while imports fell 9.7 percent, leaving a trade deficit of 401.1 billion yen, according to the ministry.

Major Japanese brokerage SMBC Nikko Securities said the trend of moderate recovery in exports remained intact, despite May's decline, thanks largely to a solid US economy. IT product inventories in the US market have started to fall, leading to inventory adjustment in Taiwan and elsewhere in Asia, said Junichi Makino, chief economist at the brokerage. "The silicon cycle is expected to bottom out soon, which should lift Japan's electronics exports," he said.

The general state of the US economy should also boost Japanese machinery exports, he said, while healthy auto sales there should also support Japan's vehicle exports. Japanese exports to the US fell 10.7 percent while imports also fell 8.5 percent. Japanese imports, meanwhile, fell 13.8 percent, the 17th straight monthly drop, but the speed of the fall was slower than the 23.3 percent seen in April. —AFP



TOKYO: Containers are loaded onto trucks from an international freighter at a port in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

IMF URGES 'RELOADED' ABENOMICS FOR JAPAN

TOKYO: The IMF said yesterday that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's eponymous economic revitalization plan needs to be "reloaded" with steps to increase incomes and achieve labor reforms to meet ambitious growth and inflation targets.

Abe swept to power in late 2012 on a pledge to kick-start the annual talks in Tokyo. world's No. 3 economy with his "Abenomics" policy blitz-a mix of massive central bank monetary easing, government spending and efforts to slash red tape. The plan got off to a promising start as it sharply weakened the yen, a plus for Japan's exporters, which set off a stock market rally. But promised

reforms have been slow in coming and doubts are growing about its prospects for success.

"Abenomics has made progress in revitalizing the Japanese economy but sustained higher growth and inflation remain elusive," the International Monetary Fund said in a report at the conclusion of

It added that in order to achieve those targets a "more substantial, coordinated policy upgrade", including steps to boost incomes and achieve labor reforms, are needed. "Abenomics needs to be reloaded," it said. adding that monetary and fiscal policies alone cannot realize the government's two percent inflation target.

Abe has been pushing stingy companies to boost workers' wage packets, but Toyota only lifted workers' monthly pay by 1,500 yen (\$14) despite record profits. Honda meanwhile increased

wages by 1,100 yen and Nissan 3,000 yen. The IMF called for the government to ensure that profitable companies lift basic wages by at least three percent and reduce the gap between lifetime workers and growing numbers of so-called non-regular workers who often lack benefits. Japan also needs to gradually raise the country's consumption tax

"towards at least 15 percent" gradually "over regular intervals" to achieve fiscal sustainability and growth, the report said. Abe announced earlier this month that he will delay a consumption tax hike, planned for 2017, to late 2019, when he is likely no longer in office.

The decision threatened to rekindle fears about Japan's ability to finance a staggering national debt, one of the worst among rich nations as the population rapidly

Last year, the government postponed raising the tax from the current eight percent to 10 percent until April 2017. —AFP

Zurich Insurance Middle East S.A.L - Kuwait Branch

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	As at	As at
	Dec 31	Dec 31
	2015	2014
	KD	KD
ASSETS		
Cash and bank balances	255,767	558,795
Insurance receivables	270,802	283,596
Reinsurance contracts	1,030,483	1,340,335
Prepayments and other receivables	26,638	30,423
Deferred acquisition costs	19,090	34,787
Statutory and term deposits	1,901,081	1,872,998
Total assets	3,503,861	4,120,934
HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNT AND LIABILITIES		
Head Office - account	837,333	574,205

Head Office - account	837,333	574,205
LIABILITIES		
Insurance contracts	2,267,757	3,070,782
Insurance and other payables	295,507	393,925
Deferred commission income	31,620	66,785
Amounts due to a related party	71,644	15,043
Employees end of service benefit	-	194
Total liabilities	2,666,528	3,546,729

Total Head Office account and liabilities

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	For the year ended 31 Dec 2015	For the year ended 31 Dec 2014
	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	100000000000000000000000000000000000000
	KD	KD
UNDERWRITING INCOME		
Insurance premium revenue	767,600	875,802
Insurance premium ceded to reinsurers	(562,878)	(598,036)
Net insurance premium revenue	204,722	277,766
Commission income	131,914	149,983
	336,636	427,749
UNDERWRITING EXPENSES		
Claims incurred	(74,912)	(285, 288)
Reinsurers' share of claims incurred	158,156	608,332
Commission expense	(88,478)	(147,224)
	(5,234)	175,820
Net underwriting income/(loss)	331,402	603,569
Interest Income	30,652	18,342
Other income/(expenses)	46,849	(23,042)
General and administration expenses	(119,786)	(156, 187)
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		,
Profit before taxation	289,117	442,682
Taxation	(47,380)	(61,219)
	, , ,	, , , , , ,
Total comprehensive Income for the year	241,737	381,463
		ADD-14 (1) (2) (1) (2) (2) (3)

A copy of the latest full audited financial statement is available at the Registered Office of the Branch at Al Hamra Tower, 35th floor, Office # 3528, Al Shuhada Street, Sharq , P.O. Box 600 - Safat 13006 , Kuwait City, Kuwait

4,120,934

3,503,861





GLOBAL STOCKS RISE AS BREXIT WORRIES EBB

LONDON: Global stocks rose sharply yesterday and sterling strengthened broadly while safe-havens including the yen and gold retreated, after polls showed support for Britain staying in the EU regaining momentum before Thursday's referendum. Sterling has been at the sharp end of worries Britons will vote to leave the European Union, and the easing of those concerns pushed the pound up 1.9 percent against the dollar - on track for its biggest daily gain since October 2009 - and more than 2 percent versus the yen.

20-5 0.0

WETHAC

BORDAT

Share prices, which fell globally in recent Japan's Nikkei climbed 2.4 percent as the yen days on prospects of Britain quitting the bloc as some polls showed the "Leave" campaign ahead, rose strongly. Wall Street looked set for a positive open, with index futuresup 1.2-1.3 percent. The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index added 3.7 percent, led by a 4.5 percent rise in banks, while Britain's blue-chip FTSE 100 index chalked up a 3.2 percent gain.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific

lost ground. Two weekend polls showed "In" regaining the lead and another showed the "Out" campaign's lead narrowing, though the overall picture is of an evenly split electorate. Bookmakers' odds have shown those wishing to stay in the EU ahead and Betfair put the implied probability of a vote to "Remain" at 72 percent on Monday, up from 60-67 percent on Friday.

Campaigning resumed on Sunday, having shares outside Japan rose 1.7 percent. been suspended for three days after British

lawmaker Jo Cox was killed in the street rose. U.S. 10-year Treasuries yielded 1.66 in her constituency on Thursday.

Sterling rose as far as \$1.4671 and was last up 1.9 percent at \$1.4628, having hit a two-week low of \$1.4013 on Thursday. It soared 2.3 percent to 153.00 yen and 1.5 percent against the euro to 77.36 pence. "The momentum has changed, and perhaps this is the first sign of what a lot of the polling experts had been suggesting, which is that the 'don't know' portion was going to be crucial and historically there tends to be a shift towards the status quo in the final days before a referendum," Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ's European head of global markets research, Derek Halpenny, said.

"I think that's what the market is reacting to."

EURO

The euro, which has also suffered due to Brexit worries, strengthened 0.4 percent to \$1.1326, having risen as far as \$1.1382. The yen, often sought by investors in times of market tension, fell 0.4 percent to 104.54 per dollar. The dollar fell 0.6 percent against a basket of

Yields on low-risk government bonds, another asset sought in troubled times,

17,733.10

National Bank of Kuwait

Financial Markets Daily Report At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Global Stock Indices

17,675.16

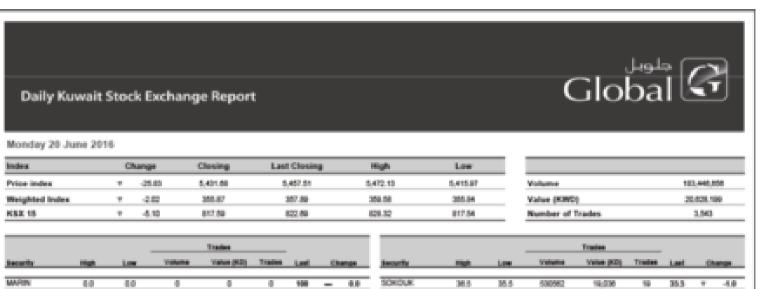
-57.94

percent, up 4.6 basis points, after hitting a four-year low of 1.518 percent on Thursday. German 10-year yields were close to 0.05 percent, up from a record low of minus 0.037 percent on Thursday.

Oil prices, which have also been under pressure from Brexit nerves, extended Friday's gains. Brent crude topped \$50 a barrel for the first time since June 14. It last traded at \$50.08, up 91 cents on the day. Gold, another safety play, fell 1.4 percent to just below \$1,280 an ounce. It rose 1.5 percent on Friday for its biggest single-day gain since June 3. Asian stocks gained across the board yesterday as fears that Britain would vote to leave the European Union abated a little, aiding a recovery in both sterling and investor risk appetite. Australian stocks added 1.4 percent and South Korea's Kospi rose 1.5 percent. Japan's Nikkei climbed 2.4 percent, helped by a retreat in the recently bullish yen. "Those who were risk averse are reversing their positions," said Yoshinori Shigemi, global market strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management in Tokyo. "Sentiment was extremely negative last week, but it's recovering now, though we should not be overly optimistic." — Reuters

الوطنى

1.44



Price index			-25.60	5,401.68		467.51		5	472.13	5,415.87		Volume			- 11	0.440	100
Weighted Index		*	-2.02	355.87		357.89			109.58	305.04		Value (KWD)	1		2	0,608,1	99
KSX 16			-6.10	817.59		822.69		-	109.32	817.54		Number of 1	Irades			3,543	
ecurity	Hen	Low	Yours	Trades Value (KD)	Trades	Leet	036	erios.	Security	ree	Low	Volume	Yorke (KD)	Trudes	Leet	- 01	· ·
MARIN	6.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	_	0.0	SOKOUK	36.5	36.5	500562	19,036	10	35.5	-	-6
OARLIS PG	41.0	40.5	61,000	2,478	2	48.5 300	*	4.5	KRE URC	96	95	264,400 13,000	1,163	8 2	56 91	-	-
MPESOO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	=	0.0	NRE	89	87	1,285,208	112,115	26	89	-	-
MERGYH	53	40.5	490,710	34,473	38	48.5	Ŧ	-0.5	SPIE	375	305	118,114	40,762	4	3075		1
P1 BAR	40.5	42:0 95	2,912,558	1,822	40	42.5	-	-10	TAM	138	560 138	66 500	37 69	- 1	590	-	9
U.S. Gan	_		3,489,490	151,684	90	779.75	+	448	NMASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	- 0	460	=	-
FOUC	100	180	89.095	10,198	12	186	_	-2.0	ARABREC ERESCO	30.0	31.5	194,300	6,123 109,007	11	31.5	-	-
POD	510	500	118,040	90,040	10	200	+	-10.0	WARANEE	780	770	10,541	11,967	7	770	-	d
LKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650	-	9.0	PARAZZAT	24	71	106,137	9,863	222	74	-	
LGURAN Insig Materials	210	204	275,749	96,257	13	979.15	+	4.6	PWESTORS PRC	32.6	35.0	3,403,368 509,610	74,930	23	32.0	÷	-
			87.007.90	Triplet.	and .	3770.10			ALTIJARIA	76	75	342,000	25,762	- 1	76	-	
CEM	560	390	29,091	11,345	5	200	-	0.0	SANIAM	0.0	0.0	6	0		32.0	_	
SABLE	610 426	408	636,401	262,758	85	305 400	-	-20.0	AAYXARE AGAR	0.0	65	95,000	2,366	2 0	63	_	-
HP	184	154	399,083	62,854	34	158	Ŧ	4.0	ALAGARIA	29.5	23.5	1,000	118	- 1	23.5		
YORM	960	960	51,000	50,460	2	990	-	0.0	MMAZAYYA	122	718	1,581,075	167,639	23	1100		-
WYER MC	296	286	2,908	829	0	280	-	0.0	ACING THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0		11.0	_	-
MOXCO:	3010	290	9,080	2,682	12	300		5.0	TLIARA	0.0	0.0	0	0		36.5	-	
SOMC 400	610	80	0	0	0	385 140	-	0.0	ARICANI	20.0	22.0	21,600	530	3	22.0		-
GMMC	6.0	0.0		ů	0	250	=	0.0	ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	148	=	-
ecam	202	202	121	24	1	360	*	44	ABYOMAR	29.6	20.0	740,500	17,038	- 6	23.0		
CCIPMENT CCI	610	80	0	0	0	12.5	-	0.0	MUNISHAA! FIRSTDUBAL	70	67	631,100 907,639	34,079 62,834	12	54	÷	
TYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	ô	Ó	100	=	0.0	KBT	40.0	39.5	574,567	22,861	18	40.0	Ŧ	
SALBOOKH	71	60	590,753	40,671	50	68		-5.0	REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0		166	-	
ASLTY BDU	400	485	1,219,000	04,085	93	100	-	0.0	AUAUDON	21.0	20.5	60,940	0.444	4	28.5	÷	
CLEANING	6.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.5	-	0.0	MARKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0		21.0	-	
HDL HDPO	46.0	45.0	497,402	22,660	28	179	-	-2.5	PREMIAL.	34.0	30.0 71	831,315	21,268	5	34.0 75	+	
HUMANSOFT	1,460	1,340	110	149	2	1,480	-	40.0	Real Evilate	10.00	/ 1	94,132,338	PMLINS	214	848.85	-	-4
NAFAIS	6.0	0.0		0	0	174	-	0.0				W. 1.10	0.000			_	_
SAUPIMANN OPIG	6.0	60	0		0	305	_	0.0	EACH.	162	178	70,000	2,115	4	178	÷	
MAYADEEN	26.0	26.6	2,744,500	70,491	28	20.5		-0.3	FA	30.0	28.6	2,480,808	72,342	63	29.0		
000	770	750	27,000	21,459	9	770		40.0	INDVIV	108	104	20,424,015	2,194,794	296 7	106		-
MTCC UPAC	60	64	164,460	10,700	62	600	-	-2.0	COAST	40.0	40.0	1114,300	703,866	212	46.5	-	-
ALAFOO	6.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-	0.0	SEICH	0.0	0.0	0	0		40.5	-	
AUBARRAD LOGISTICS	61	81	30,000	1,850	9	79	-	0.0	SIGC ARCIAN	30.0	32.0	1,722,768	00,042	30	32.0	-	-
SCEM	70	79	79,307	0,100	4	79	-	-1.0	MANAGE .	67	80	60,500	5,067	12	10	-	
OCEM	79	13	212,298	16,766	14	716	*	-3.0	KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	-	
DIC POEM	73	8.0 73	1,106,621	80,780	14	73	-	-1.0	ALABBAN	50	49.0	50,001 774,500	2,481	4	56	-	÷
RHOWIC	0.0	0.0		0	0	94	_	0.0	ALMAL.	30.5	30.0	27,867,017	884,430	430	30.0		
SPEC Industrials	6.0	6.0	7,799,384	1,235,385	305	79 1071.34	-	-2.73	GBH AAYONI	0.0	35.5	2.553.400	0 91.462	50	37.0	-	4
			1,-11,-11				-		BACHNING	36.0	34.5	1,094,865	36,366	34	34.5		
r.Ser	6.0	6.0	0	0	0	158	-	8.0	OSOUL.	0.0	0.0	0	0		45.5	-	
MSH PBPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	-	0.0	KPIC	0.0	37.0	500	- 0	-	27.0	÷	-
CATTL	194	100	370	69	5	186		4.0	DVBH	67	54	2,000	111	3	56		
DIANGAHI POLILT	179	179	5.091	906	2	124	=	0.0	ISKAN NACAR	10.5	10.0	730,822	22;991	12	13.0	÷	-
POOD	2,300	2,300	2,060	4,748	2	2,300	-	200.0	ALDEERA	39.0	39.0	25,000	975	-	39.0	÷	
Consumer Goods			7,584	5,739	9	1148.40		13.79	ALSALAM	40.0	40.5	5,945,595	244,960	76	41.0	-	
MIC	6.0	6.0	- 0	0	0	200			ALMADINA.	37.0 40.0	35.5	5,150,612	818,2858 2002,0110	100	45.0	÷	
Anc	6.0	0.0		0	0	100	=		NOOR	42.0	40.5	78,831	3,304	4	41.0	÷	
YMCO	6.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	_	0	TAMENY	0.0	0.0	0	0		315	-	
Health Care						990.41	-	0.00	TAISA	0.0	0.0	0	0		1,500	-	-
ICM	6.0	6.0	0	0	0	1,700	-		RISHIO	36.0	34.5	1,407,591	53,336	40	25.0		
IOHOT	0.0	0.0	0 00 700	0	0	210	-		ASPYA	0.0	0.0	0 0 000	0	0	39.0	-	-
SULTAN CABLETY	20.5	20.5	1,500	2,948	+	20.5	-	3	AMMIAL.	39.0	35.5	8,728,549 29,863	336,138	108	22.0	÷	-
FVAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	-	0	ALIMTIAZ	60	68	176,500	12,006		68		
FAHR OULAFUEL	110	108	14,503	1,591	8	110	=		NONNO	124	0.0 114	0 8,100,696	969,010	902	15.0	-	- 1
MUNTAZAHAT	87	85	75,000	6,435	÷	86	=	i	BIHC	32.5	29.6	11,884,917	366,960	108	29.5	÷	
APEERA	910	890	8,010	7,004	3	910	-		SEMEROY	0.0	0.0	0	0		13.0	-	
SOOR PUTUREKIO	110 610	100	28,140	2,861	9	112	_	-2	AGHC KPPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	-	47.5	-	-
ALFIAI	104	158	80,974	13,111		158	*	4	TAHSSILAT	55	98	50	3	- 1	55	-	
OMAH UPIG	41.5	34:0	1,412,900	57,804 0	45	40.5	-	-1	JEERANN EKHOLDING	0.0	0.0	0	0		772 1030	-	-
Unici Meccan	1,100	1,000	119,394	131,124	9	1,100	-		GFH	69	0.0	50,000	3,450	2	120	_	d
Consumer Service			1,780,316	323,576	10	999.00	Ŧ	-2.73	NOVEST	54	04	41,000	2,400	2	54		
AN	3610	346	460,083	180,104	29	346	_		Financial Service			116,121,461	6,657,645	1,369	566.06	-	-6
000ED00	1,160	1,100	4,805	5,812	6	1,100	-		investment instr	uments				•	1001.57	-	-
etstelec ma	940	36.5 940	5,817,008	294,294	20	34.5		-10	ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	- 0	390		-
rice elecommunicatio		940	6,300,735	402,501	119	906.85	Ť	-549	OSOS	0.0	0.0	0	ů		1110	=	
									PUTURE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	-	-
60K 50K	600 246	810 240	6,711,203	4,109,003 2,631,998	102	364		-20	HATTATICOMM Technology	46.0	47.0	2,000	95	4	47.5	=	á
ZBK.	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	-	ě									
ak .	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	-		BAREEG	0.0	0.0	0		- 0	100	-	
UMUTAHED 08	190	400 192	38,518	15,452	40	400 110	-	4	AFRO ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	-	1772	-	-
URG	5010	3110	2,900,179	915,546	77	329	ì	5	EFFECT	40.5	39.5	57,483	2,298	4	40.5	=	
FW	400	400	3,773,727	1,735,994	60	400	Ŧ	-10	AJWAN	37.0	20.0	3,900	100	4	26.0		
CUBYAN	190	390 188	1,504,000	34,724	5	188	-	-5	DALGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	211	-	
HMR	37.0	36.0	1,705,400	61,874	40	36.0	÷	-	ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	ě	ě	200	Ξ	
YARGAGANK.	174	172	1,584,376	274,509	63	172	-	0	MOAN	0.0	0.0	0	0		1,320	-	
lanks			20,440,286	11,230,487	307	803.71	Ŧ	443	FLEX THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0		108	-	
ONS	2940	290	3,000	870	-1	290		-90	KCURIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	ě	33.5	Ξ	i
WKS.	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	-	0.0	AMARIA Toronto d'Albandaria	49.5	40.5	3,000	140	3	49.5	-	
MS INC	465	465	1,000	465	0	460		-10.0	Parallel Market			64,383	2,509	***	1002.10	-	-
MINS.	6.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	_	0.0									
AN ACT RE																	

DOM Jolles	,.	33.10	17,0	, 5.10	-37.74	,	-0.33	1.44
NASDAQ	4,84	14.92	4,80	0.34	-44.58 ▼		-0.92	-4.14
S&P 500	2,07	77.99	2,07	1.22	-6.77	▼	-0.33	1.33
Financial Times	6,02	21.09	6,20	7.59	186.50	A	3.10	-0.56
DAX	9,63	31.36	9,96	4.66	333.30	A	3.46	-7.18
CAC 40	4,19	3.83	4,33	8.76	144.93	A	3.46	-6.43
Swiss	7,71	13.61	7,92	7.07	213.46	A	2.77	-10.1
Nikkei 225	15,5	99.66	15,9	65.30	365.64	A	2.34	-16.1
Topix	1,25	50.83	1,27	79.19	28.36		2.27	-17.3
Hang Seng	20,1	69.98	20,5	10.20	340.22	A	1.69	-6.41
Straits Times	2,76	53.42	2,80	0.87	37.45	A	1.36	-2.84
		ME	NA Sto	ock In	dicas		100	11111
A Company of the		ME	NA SU	JCK III	uices			
Index	Previo	us Close	Last	Price	Cha	inge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performa %
Kuwait	5,45	57.51	5,43	1.68	-25.83	•	-0.47	-2.89
Saudi Arabia	6,54	12.40	6,54	13.13	0.73	A	0.01	-5.34
Dubai	3,29	96.69	3,30	5.94	9.25	A	0.28	4.62
Abu Dhabi	4,52	24.41	4,48	31.04	-43.37	•	-0.96	5.04
Bahrain	1,11	12.78	1,11	5.42	2.63	A	0.24	-8.48
Qatar	9,80	05.61	9,82	5.25	19.64	A	0.20	-5.98
Oman	5,80	07.51	5,78	34.47	-23.04	•	-0.40	7.42
Lebanon	1,14	12.58	1,14	14.27	1.68	A	0.15	-2.30
Jordan	2,10	08.07	2,11	0.32	2.25	A	0.11	-1.32
Egypt	7,33	37.97	7,18	88.39	-149.58	•	-2.04	4.74
Morocco		19.60	9,61	7.01	-32.59	•	-0.34	8.11
Tunisia		25.96		20.07	-5.89	*	-0.11	7.61
	Global Curr		1 1 1 1 1	1 1 2 1				
		Jai Cu	rrenci	es Exc				
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australi
Kuwait Dinar		12.3478	3.3063	2.9190	2.2595	3.1734	345.74	4.436
Saudi Riyal	0.08099		0.2678	0.2364	0.1830	0.2570	28.00	0.359
US Dollar	0.30245	3.7346		0.8828	0.6834	0.9598	104.57	1.341
Euro	0.34259	4.2302	1.1327		0.7742	1.0876	118.46	1.520
Sterling Pound	0.44258	5.4648	1.4633	1.2917	10000	1.4051	153.02	1.964
Swiss Franc	0.31512	3.8910	1.0419	0.9195	0.7117	7 (10)	108.95	1.398
Japanese Yen	0.00289	0.0357	0.0096	0.0084	0.0065	0.0092		0.012
Australian Dollar	0.22539	2.7830	0.7452	0.6578	0.5090	0.7152	77.93	
		A. Carlot	renci		hange	1000 000 0		
		Kuwaiti		Bahraini	Qatari	Omani	Emirates	Egyptia
Currency	US Dollar	Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Dinar	Riyal	Riyal	Dirham	Poun
US Dollar		0.30245	3.7346	0.3741	3.6257	0.3831	3.6570	8.770
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3063		12.3478	1.2370	11.9878	1.2668	12.0913	28.99
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08099		0.1002	0.9708	0.1026	0.9792	2.348
Bahraini Dinar	2.6729	0.80843	9.9824		9.6913	1.0241	9.7749	23.44
Qatari Riyal	0.2758	0.08342	1.0300	0.1032		0.1057	1.0086	2.418
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.78942	9.7476	0.9765	9.4634		9.5451	22.890
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08270	1.0212	0.1023	0.9914	0.1048	1 ,	2.398
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03449	0.4258	0.0427	0.4134	0.0437	0.4170	
		Glol	bal Int	erest	Rates			
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-M	onth	6-M	onth	1-)	/ear
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.	44	1.	63	1.	94
US Dollar	0.41	0.44	0.	64	FA	LSE	1.	25
Euro	-0.38	-0.35	-0.	.28	-0	.16	-0	.03
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.51	0.	58	0.	72	0.	98
Swiss Franc	-0.81	-0.82		.76		.67		.55
Australian Dollar	1.84	1.92		81		76		70
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.88		88		02		09
- John Dollar	0.50		obal B					
Country	2.1					Vase	20	Var-
Country United States	$\overline{}$	rear .72		fear 17		Year 67		Year 49
		.60		.48		05		62
Europe	-0	.00	-0.	.40	0.	03	0.	UZ

0.76

44.67

47.95

Commodities

1.22

0.02

1.69

-0.10

-19.94

-0.18

2.08

35.61

18.25

22.73

18.25

20.75

0.04

3.68

-0.21

-1.54

-1.01

0.44

Previous Close

44.65

45.98

48.05

1298.21

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NON-OIL ACTIVITY BULLISH IN QATAR AMID RISING INVESTMENT

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT: Overview and outlook

KUWAIT: Relatively high public investment will continue to underpin Qatari economic growth, especially in the nonhydrocarbon sector. Coupled with output gains in the hydrocarbon sector related to the launch of the Barzan gas production facility in 2016, economic activity is expected to remain rather buoyant. In an effort to control public expenditures, ministries have been merged, infrastructure projects have been reprioritized, and subsidies on domestic fuel and utility prices have been cut. Nevertheless, the country is likely to record this year its first fiscal deficit since 1999; this will be financed through debt issuance rather than asset drawdowns. With state revenues impacted by low oil prices, government deposits have contracted and trailed credit growth, leading to a tightening in banking sector liquidity and a rise in interbank rates. Banks' foreign liabilities have increased as banks have sought to borrow from overseas.

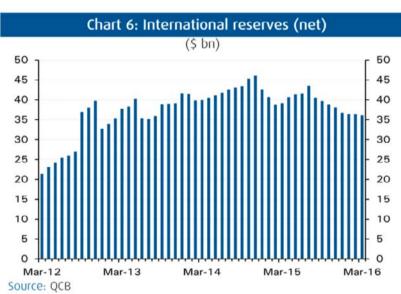
With strong fiscal and external buffers, including its sovereign wealth fund, Qatar is better placed than most of its peers to negotiate the current energy downturn-a fact that was reflected in the AA credit rating status recently affirmed by rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's (S&P) and Moody's. The latter's negative outlook assessment, however, reflects the risks stemming from a continued buildup of public debt and weak implementation of structural reforms. Also, the arrival of

economy and provide employment for Qatar's expanding population. Real non-oil growth is forecast to clock in at 6.3 percent and 6.4 percent in 2016 and 2017, respectively. This will continue to be supported by gains in the construction, financial services, manufacturing and tourism sectors.

Meanwhile, hydrocarbon sector output, having plateaued with the attainment of maximum LNG capacity in 2012, is expected to receive a boost from the commissioning of the Barzan gas production facility this year. Barzan should reach its full production capacity of 1.4 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) in 2017. It should also supply additional volumes of condensates and natural gas liquids (NGLs) for export and to the country's refineries-including the upcoming Ras Laffan 2 refinery. These lighter hydrocarbon products took over from crude oil as the dominant liquid fuel products, once crude output from Qatar's maturing oil fields began to decline in 2007. Crude output averaged 0.66 mb/d in 2015 and should hold steady over the forecast period as Qatar Petroleum and its international partners look to conservatively manage production at the country's ageing fields. Real hydrocarbon GDP is forecast to grow by 1.3 percent in 2016.

Inflation to rise

Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), is projected to rise gradually over the next two years,



Australia and the US as major LNG exporters could herald a new era of price competition.

Government investmentThe government's \$200 billion devel-

opment plan remains the lynchpin of Qatar's economic growth. Investment spending on a range of public projects, including the Qatar Integrated Railway (\$40 billion), the new Hamad Port (\$7 billion), the Lusail Mixed-Use Development (\$45 billion) and the local roads and drainage program (\$14.6 billion) as well as 2022 World Cup-specific infrastructure ie stadia, will continue to facilitate the expansion of the non-oil

from 1.6 percent in 2015 to 2.9 percent in 2017 (on an annual average basis). As of April, the headline rate was up by 3.4 percent y/y, with rising rental costs and rebounding global food and commodity prices the primary triggers. Inflation in rental prices (5.2 percent y/y growth in the housing and utilities component of the CPI in April) has been a longstanding issue in Qatar given the limited supply of residential housing and the rapid increase in the country's population-9.2 percent y/y in April-as a result of expatriate immigration. Real estate prices were rising at a rate of 13.3 percent y/y in March.

The recent fuel price hikes that were

instituted as part of the government's subsidy reform proposals are expected to feed through into the CPI. Their impact is not likely to be significant or long-lasting, however. Furthermore, a strengthening US dollar, to which the Qatari riyal is pegged, should help to restrain imported inflation.

Fiscal consolidation underway

With hydrocarbon revenues impacted by the collapse in oil and gas prices and elevated capital expenditures, Qatar is likely to record its first fiscal deficit since 1999 this year, equivalent to -2.3 percent of GDP. Similarly, the current account surplus is forecast to narrow to a 16-year low of 3.2 percent of GDP in 2016 before rising next year in line with a further recovery in oil prices. (Chart 5.) The fiscal deficit expected this year comes despite a concerted effort by the authorities to rationalize expenditures by restraining current spending and scaling back non-essential capital spending. Recent data from MEED projects suggests that this is indeed happening, with the value of contracts awarded so far in 2016, at just \$2.1 billion, down a staggering 90 percent from the \$20.1 billion worth of contracts signed during the first half of last year.

Moreover, the government has proceeded to reform the state's finances, introducing a QAR 600 billion (\$165 billion) spending cap on new investment projects for 10 years, creating a macrofiscal unit and public investment management department (PIM), overhauling the country's sovereign wealth fund, the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), and privatizing semi-government institutions. The authorities have begun withdrawing subsidies to certain state institutions in tandem with the broader, nationwide removal of fuel and utility subsidies. The cost of fuel subsidies in Qatar is, however, low by GCC standards, accounting for less than 1 percent of non-hydrocarbon GDP.

Sufficient fiscal buffers in place

With \$36 billion in international reserves and an estimated \$256 billion under management by the QIA, Qatar's fiscal buffers are sufficient for the time being to finance the deficit. Having said that, the authorities have already indicated that any deficits would be financed exclusively through borrowing rather than reserve drawdowns. In addition to at least \$7.5 billion in domestic bonds and sukuk issued since September 2015 and a syndicated loan of \$5 billion secured earlier in the year, a triple-tranche US dollar-denominated bond sale of around \$9 billion is expected shortly. This is expected to raise public debt from a low of 30 percent of GDP in 2014 to potentially over 50 percent of GDP by year's end.

Robust credit growth

Bank credit growth, a key driver of non-oil activity, has rebounded from the single digit lows of early 2015 to come in at a robust 14.8 percent y/y in March, according to central bank fig-

Chart 4: Fiscal balance 120 20 Revenues (\$ bn, LHS) 110 18 Expenditures (\$ bn, LHS) 100 Fiscal balance (% of GDP, RHS) 16 90 14 80 12 70 10 60 50 6 40 30 20 10 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016f 2017f 2011

ures. Spearheading the revival has been the public sector, which has begun increasing its demand for credit after a 10-month debt-repayment period in 2014-15 as it pushes ahead with the government's infrastructure development plan. In contrast, private sector credit growth has been in double digits since 2011, although the pace of growth has slowed in recent months to a 19month low of 15.7 percent y/y in March. Demand from the construction, real estate, services and consumption sectors account for much of the increase of the last two years. Lending to the real estate sector in particular has accelerated rapidly over the last year, rising by 34.8 percent y/y in March, to the extent that ratings agencies are once again citing concentration risk; banks' exposure to the real estate sector reached 30 per-

Source: OCB, NBK estimates

cent in March.

The flow of deposits, especially public sector deposits, into the banking system has slowed significantly since oil prices began falling in mid-2014 As of March, total bank deposit growth had moderated to 4.0 percent y/y, which is the slowest rate of growth since the financial crisis. Public sector deposits have been contracting for the best part of a year and a half, and were down -8.5 percent y/y in March.

Foreign currency deposits have borne the brunt of the fall, pushing broad money supply growth (M2) into negative territory in both February and March (-0.4 percent y/y in March) for the first time since the financial crisis. With deposit growth trailing credit growth, concerns over tightening liquidity have resurfaced: the banking sector's loan-to-deposit-ratio was 119 percent in March, which is not far off April 2012's post-financial crisis-high of 121 percent. 3-month interbank rates have consequently spiked, hitting a peak of 1.7 percent in May.

The prospect of liquidity draining from the system and higher cost of funds prompted the authorities to suspend the central bank's monthly auction of T-bills and sukuk early in 2016. The contribution of interbank funds to banks' total funds was back up to 24.6 percent in March. Banks' reliance on for-

eign funds has also increased, with the share of non-resident deposits to total funds up from 4 percent to 11 percent in 2 years. Indeed, the net foreign liability position of banks climbed to a high of \$33.4 billion in February, or 154.6 percent of foreign assets. This represents almost 11 percent of the system's total asset base, up from 0.3 percent in November 2014.

Fed lead on rates hike

Given the demands of a fixed exchange rate regime, Qatari domestic interest rates tend to be closely aligned with US interest rates. However, the Qatar Central Bank (QCB), with one eye on keeping borrowing costs down, has yet to follow the US Fed's 25 bps rate rise last December and increase its own benchmark lending and deposit rates. These are currently at 4.5 percent and 0.75 percent, respectively.

Despite an improvement in sentiment related to the recent rally in oil prices, the benchmark Qatar Exchange Index (QE) remains down by -6.8 percent year-to-date at 9,716. Thinner volumes amid a series of disappointing corporate earnings announcements have not helped. The market is hoping that the introduction of margin trading and securities lending for institutional investors and the inclusion of the Qatari bourse in the FTSE's emerging markets index will boost liquidity.

Rising debt levels

For the time being, with its sizeable fiscal buffers and AA credit rating, Qatar remains well positioned to negotiate the current period of low oil prices. However, public debt and borrowing costs are rising and likely to increase further in 2016 with the expectation of another round or two of US rate rises. Moreover, there are reports that capacity constraints are once more affecting the roll out of projects. Qatar has already been placed on negative watch by Moody's. Risks to Qatar (and GCC countries more broadly) are reflected in elevated sovereign CDS spreads. The arrival of Australia and the US as major LNG exporters will undoubtedly put gas prices under further pressure.

BRITAIN'S POORER COMMUNITIES HIT HARDEST BY BANK CLOSURES

LONDON: Britain's largest banks are disproportionately closing branches in the lowest-income areas while expanding in wealthier ones, taking bricks-and-mortar services away from communities where they are arguably

needed most, an analysis by Reuters shows.

HSBC, Royal Bank of Scotland, Barclays and Lloyds Banking Group are among banks that have cut 600 branches from April 2015 to April 2016. More than 90 percent of the closures were in areas where the median household income is below the British average of 27,600 pounds (\$39,042), according to an analysis of Office for National Statistics data on average incomes in the locations where branches were closed.

By comparison, five out of the eight branches opened by these banks over the same period were in some of the wealthiest neighborhoods in Britain-Chelsea, Canary Wharf, St Paul's, Marylebone and Clapham, all in the capital, London. The banks say in an era of falling revenues, they must look for ways to cut costs, which includes reducing staff as well as closing branches, an obvious measure as more and more people do their banking online. They say they choose which branches to close on the basis of where they have the fewest customers and deny they specifically target poorer areas. But campaigners say banks are cutting too fast in places where people are less able to fall back on digital banking services because of a lack of access, finances or ability to use the internet.

"We are witnessing the creation of a dual financial system: one for the middle class and wealthy and another for the poor," said Fionn Travers Smith of Move Your Money, which campaigns for ethical banking.

The situation is similar in the United States, where 1,600 branches closed in 2015, according to SNL financial. The result, according to a 2014 study by MIT economist Hoai-Luu Nguyen, is a decline in lending, especially in low-income areas. High Street bank branches are important to communities who use them for basic functions such as withdrawing money and cashing checks, politicians and business people told Reuters.

The village of Cross Hands with a population of 4,500 in southwest Wales is a classic example. It is set to lose its last branch when the local Lloyds closes at the end of July.

Local businesspeople say the closure will mean they are forced to travel to nearby Tumble, a 90-minute round trip by infrequent buses for many residents without cars.

"It's going to have a big financial impact as I will have to close the shop during that time," said Jo Payne, who is set to open a cafÈ in Cross Hands next month and will need to deposit cash takings, which cannot be done online.

Payne said the loss of ATMs in the village from branch closures has also hurt business, as few shops take credit cards. About a third of cash machines now charge customers to withdraw money, and studies such as one by Nottingham University say when branches close, less-regulated financial institutions, including payday loan providers and cash-checking centres, fill the void at a higher cost

"If we want businesses to thrive in areas with scattered populations and lower incomes, they must keep at least the last bank in every community open," said Nia Griffith, Labour member of parliament for Llanelli and Shadow Secretary of State for Wales. With a population of 3 million, Wales has been plagued by high unemployment and poverty since the closure of coal mines in the 1980s. Western Wales and the Valleys has the highest level of poverty in northern Europe, with the average income at 67 percent of the European Union average, according to 2013 EU statistics.

The large banks were three times more likely to shut a branch in Wales than in the southeast or London, the wealthiest areas of Britain, when closures were averaged out for the size of their populations, the Reuters analysis showed. "The fact that poorer areas are being hit the worst by branch closures, means you're going to see a perfect storm making it harder for them to regenerate," said Jonathan Edwards, an MP for Carmarthen

East and Dinefwr in southwest Wales.

HSBC, Barclays, RBS and Lloyds say they have signed up to protocols aimed at minimising the impact of branch closures, including partnering with the post office to offer services and carrying out impact studies before closures. Banks say they have not cancelled any planned closures as a result of the studies, but have delayed some. — Reuters



SHANGHAI: Waste collectors ride their loaded tricycles on the streets in Shanghai yesterday.—AFP

UK REFERENDUM COULD AFFECT EUROPEAN AIRLINE TRAFFIC RIGHTS

LONDON: A British vote to leave the European Union in Thursday's referendum would call into question EU agreements on open airspace that have fostered a huge expansion of air travel, creating uncertainty for both British and other EU airlines. Flying rights between two countries, including how many airports a carrier may fly to and how often, are typically negotiated in bilateral treaties.

But by creating the single aviation market in the 1990s, the EU allowed the region's airlines unlimited access to the skies of fellow member states, doubling traffic growth in the four years after liberalization. Liberalization means an Irish carrier can fly between Britain and Spain, or a British carrier can operate domestic flights within France, opportunities seized upon by low cost carriers.

tunities seized upon by low cost carriers.

A Brexit vote in Thursday's British referendum on EU membership would therefore affect all pan-

European carriers, not just British ones. The biggest market for Ireland's Ryanair is Britain while UK-based easyJet is the second largest airline in France, and they have campaigned for Britain to stay in the EU.

In the immediate future, airline bosses are worried about the impact a Brexit could have on travel demand. KPMG says the number of passengers carried between Britain and the EU increased to over 130 million in 2015 from 69 million passengers in 1996, while the top eight UK-based airlines made over 10.5 billion pounds (\$15.4 billion) in revenue from travel between Britain and other EU states.

Here are some of the scenarios for aviation. Britain's access to the single market is unchanged while an EU exit is formally negotiated: ECAA.

Industry experts say one way to ensure nothing changes for airlines is for Britain to agree access to

the European Common Aviation Area, which comprises all EU member states, plus some non-EU states including Norway, Iceland and Albania. Tony Tyler, head of the International Air Transport Association, said this would be a plausible outcome. "If that were to happen, there would not be much impact, but nobody can make predictions."

To rejoin as a non-EU country, Britain will likely have to ensure its aviation laws and standards comply with EU regulations, according to law firm Eversheds. Analysts at CAPA-Centre for Aviation have said Britain might not be guaranteed ECAA membership, because other signatory nations could object to protect their own national carriers.

But James Stamp, UK head of Transport at KPMG, said he didn't think European states would restrict access to their markets, because they benefit from access to Britain's large travel market.— Reuters

MEZZAN HOLDING PLANS JV IN SAUDI WITH AL-FAISALIAH GROUP

Mezzan Holding's investment in JV will be between KD7 m and KD7.7m

largest food, beverage, FMCG and pharma manufacturing and distribution companies in the Gulf, announced yesterday that it is in talks with Saudi Arabia's Al-Faisaliah Group, a leading diversified business group, for the establishment of a joint venture in Saudi's food manufacturing and distribution sector.

Mezzan Holding Vice-Chairman, Mohammed Al Wazzan, said, "Saudi Arabia represents a key growth market for our company, and Al-Faisaliah Group is a strong, reputable company that we look

KUWAIT: Mezzan Holding, one of the forward to partner with to grow our Saudi bution entity, Al Safi Food Company, curbusiness."

Mezzan Holding is a Kuwait Stock Exchange-listed company that operates in food, beverage, FMCG, and pharmaceutical sectors in seven countries through 29 subsidiaries and 7,500 employees. The company generates approximately 75 percent of its revenues through retailbased activities.

Under the terms of the JV agreement, Mezzan Holding will acquire a 70 percent stake through a capital increase in a food and beverage manufacturing and distri-

rently owned by Al-Faisaliah, which will retain the remaining 30 percent stake. The transaction is expected to close in six to eight weeks subject to satisfying certain precedent conditions and obtaining regulatory approvals. Mezzan Holding's investment in the JV is expected to be between KD7 million and KD7.7 million.

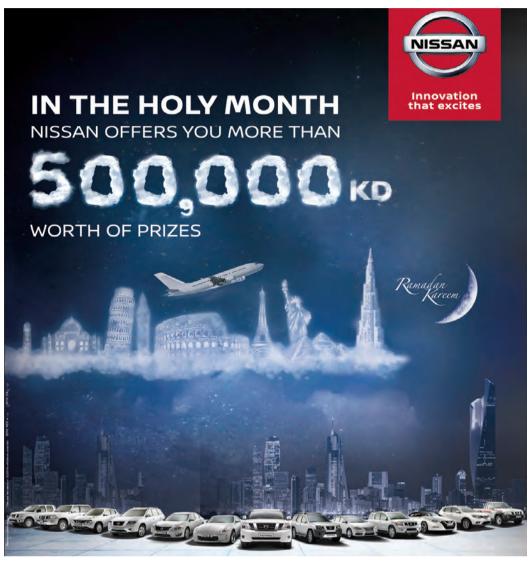
The joint venture will enable Mezzan Holding to manufacture, market and distribute food products in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and award it exclusive rights to continue to manufacture, market and distribute Al-Faisaliah Group's bakery and snacks products line, as well as the exclusive rights to import, manufacture, sell and distribute all Mezzan Holding brands. The company will be headquartered in Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Faisaliah Group is a privately-held, multi-business group headquartered in Saudi Arabia and predominantly serving the Middle East with activities in over twenty countries. Founded in 1971, the Group holds leading positions in agriculture & food, healthcare, food services,

pharmaceuticals, and electronics & systems. The Group is recognized by virtue of its strongly-held values, its professional management and its long-tenure strategic partnerships and joint ventures with leading global firms including Sony, Danone, Philips, and Accenture.

Mezzan Holding was advised by Mohammed & Khlood Aldukheil Co (MKD) and Abdulaziz H Al-Fahad & Partners. Al-Faisaliah Group was advised by Abdulaziz I. Al-Ajlan & Partners in association with Baker & McKenzie

NISSAN AL-BABTAIN STILL OFFERING YOU MORE THAN KD500,000 THIS RAMADAN



KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company, the exclusive authorized dealer of Nissan in the State of Kuwait, continues to offer one largest campaigns for the Holy month of Ramadan, where customers receive special prices, instant gift vouchers from Emirates airlines, and enter the grand draw to win a KD1,000 voucher to the destination of their choice.

Upon purchasing one of the Nissan vehicles during the month of Ramadan all customers will enter a draw that will take place on August 7th; where five winners will enjoy the opportunity to receive KD1,000 each in vouchers allowing them to choose the flight that they would like on the wings of the Emirates airlines.

Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co would also like to wish all its customers a Ramadan Kareem, wishing to contribute that their strong promotion and the high level of services that they offer will increase and strengthen confidence in its brand and maintain its position as a leader in the local and regional automotive markets.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to celebrate the Ramadan atmosphere within its widespread showrooms around Kuwait and learn about the details of the offers. Nissan Al-Babtain is known to being keen to constantly provide the best deals to its customers throughout the year, as well as after-sales service to meet the growing demand for Nissan rate and achieve the company's goals to always remain at the forefront of leading automotive brands.

Premium Service Offer • Free 21 points courtesy check • Free Nitrogen fill • Free car vacuum & wash

ALGHANIM AUTOMOTIVE PRESENTS ITS DISTINGUISHED CADILLAC CUSTOMERS PREMIUM SERVICE OFFER

Hurry! This offer is valid from 14 June until 11 August 2016

KUWAIT: Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons plans as well as plenty of service benefits Automotive, Kuwait's exclusive distributor of Cadillac vehicles, continues to elevate its customer relations and car sales and services to new levels by announcing Premium Service Offer. Available to Cadillac's distinguished customers, this new and amazing promotion offers a slew of free services, including 21 points Free courtesy check, free nitrogen fill and free car vacuum and wash. Customers are encouraged to take advantage of this valuable offer by visiting any of Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive service center from June 14th until August 11th, 2016.

Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive service centers aim to offer a completely satisfying experience from the moment customers step in until the day they drive off to a thrilling destination. Performed by professionally trained service advisors, customers can expect a professional, detailed checkup that includes a through inspection on all aspects related to car safety such as wipers. brakes, engine and oil, all at no additional cost for customers. Once the checkup has been performed, customers will receive an exhaustive report detailing the condition of the car, the required maintenance and pricing. Not to mention the customer-friendly service contracts that avail to customers a variety of flexible payment options and and perks all year long.

It's also worth mentioning that Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Service Facility in Shuwaikh is considered the biggest and most advanced automotive service center in the world, with 73,000 sq m of built up area, servicing 1,000 vehicles every day. Throughout the facility, advanced technology is harnessed to provide customers highquality and efficient service, including a team of highly trained technicians whose goal is to provide necessary advice and support as well as reliable and cost-effective operation of customers' vehicles. The facility also includes a state-of-the-art paint and body shop that provides factory finish gloss and quality when it comes to refinishing customers' vehicles. Supported by bodyand-paint specialists and modern equipment, the shop offers a variety of services that includes paint-less dent removal, custom paint and customization, sunroof installations, upholstery repairs and replacement, and many more.

Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive encourages customers to visit any of its strategically located service centers as soon as possible as to avoid any potential malfunction due to the extreme weather conditions. Cadillac customers can also book their appointment by calling 24969000.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced vesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD

- 5,000 each, and they are: 1. Rashed Mubarak Saif Al Azmi
 - 2. Abdulkareem Ahmad Safah 3. Latifah Hussain Ali Al Senafi
- 4. Abdulaziz Hussain Mohammad 5. Fatma Jafar Mohammed Hussain

To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account now offers daily and quarterly draws, the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize

their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of

winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the voungest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region



بنڪ برقتان BURGAN BANK

supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously

improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

Burgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIP-CO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in

CHINA OUTBOUND M&A BEATS 2015 RECORD WITH 6 MONTHS TO SPARE

HONG KONG: In less than six months of 2016, China's appetite for overseas acquisitions has already outgrown last year's record, as deal-hungry mainland buyers chase global assets such as real estate, chemicals and high-end technology. China National Chemical Corp's \$43 billion bid for Swiss agrichemicals maker Syngenta makes up almost 40 percent of this year's \$111.6 billion total, but even without that deal the pace has quickened.

Bankers and lawyers say there could, however, be some slowdown in the second half, as mainland buyers face heightened scrutiny at home and abroad.

China International Capital Corp, the country's biggest investment bank, expects outbound deals to hit \$150 billion this year. Chinese acquirers announced \$111.5 billion worth of deals in 2015 from 632 transactions, according to Thomson Reuters data. Completed deals, on which banks are paid fees, last year stood at \$73 billion, compared with \$45.6 billion

Some recent Chinese technology deals have met with opposition, however, which could turn some buyers cautious. Midea Group Co's efforts to buy out German industrial robot maker Kuka, for example, provoked a political furore in Germany, and the company has had to offer numerous guarantees on preserving local sites and jobs.

"We expect outbound M&A activities will continue to rise, but not at the nose-bleeding rate of the first quarter of 2016," said David Wu, head of corporate finance, China, for ING Bank. China's desire to temper the outflow of its foreign reserves, which dropped more than half a trillion dollars last year, could also curb deals. Lawyers say the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), the custodian of the country's \$3.19 trillion reserves, is anxious that the deal outflows could weigh on the yuan currency. "SAFE cancelled the formal approval process for outbound transactions some time ago, but they are monitoring flows going out quite carefully, given the recent surge in money leaving the country," said Andrew McGinty, a partner at Shanghai-based partner at law firm Hogan Lovells International.

Uncertainty surrounding the outcome of this

week's referendum in Britain over its membership of the European Union and the upcoming US presidential elections in November are also factors likely to slow Chinese overseas purchases, bankers say. After many years of focusing on the booming domestic economy, Chinese companies are increasingly looking to diversify their revenues as growth at home slipped to a 25-

Chinese state-owned and private companies are also looking to upgrade their manufacturing prowess with overseas technology. Other big purchases announced by China Inc this year include HNA Group's \$6.3 billion acquisition of Ingram Micro Inc and Haier Group's \$5.4 billion bid for General Electric Co's appliances unit.

"Whether it be from the private sector, government or even middle market firms, this expansion is strategic and long-term focused," said John Kim, head of M&A, Asia ex-Japan at Goldman Sachs.

"The appetite is particularly voracious for technology, media, healthcare and financial services, and for the foreseeable future it won't be going away," he added. —Reuters

AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD SAVING PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on June 15, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000 is: Osama Abdulrahman Al-Duaij.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Taibah Abdulmohsen Al-Munayes, Rabah Mohd Fahmi, Alshaheen Falah Al-Obaid, Rasha Ibrahim Al-Hunaidi, Adnan Salem Al-Roomi, Hana I Y A AlMailem, Jasem Mohd Al-Fodar, Nader Hana Asaad Basely, Khalil Ibrahim Al Othman, Abdulrazzaq Y H Al Amiri, Bassam Salah Aldeen Al-Hamawi, Abdulkareem Ali Al Mutawaa, Ahmad S A Al Daaij, Mohammed Abdulamer Al-Nassar, Hussain Ali Mansoor, Layla Hasan Ahmed, Hussain Ali Mansoor, Ali Mohd Ebrahim, Adel Yousif Abdulrahman, Sawsan Jaffar Daewish, Anisa Abdulaziz Al Tajer, Jamal Abdulla Mohd, Hana Mohamed Ali, Ahmed Saqr Ahmed, Moh'd Ebrahim Ahmed.

The prize program of "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000.

Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

CISCO PREDICTS MEA TO HAVE HIGHEST GROWTH IN IP TRAFFIC

KUWAIT: According to the 11th annual Cisco Visual Networking Index (VNI) Complete Forecast for 2015 to 2020, global IP traffic will nearly triple at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22 percent over the next five years. The Middle East and Africa (MEA) region will see a 6-fold growth in IP traffic, which is the highest at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 41 percent by 2020. More than one billion new Internet users are expected to join the global Internet community, growing from three billion in 2015 to 4.1 billion by 2020. The MEA region will see 445 million new Internet users by 2020 at a CAGR of 10.8 percent.

The global digitization transformation, based on the adoption of personal devices and deployment of machine-tomachine (M2M) connections will have an even greater impact on traffic growth. Over the next five years, global IP networks will support up to 10 billion new devices and connections, increasing from 16.3 billion in 2015 to 26.3 bil-

lion by 2020. There are projected to be 3.4 devices and connections per capita by 2020-up from 2.2 per capita in 2015.

"One of the most significant changes of the next few years will be the dramatic increase in worldwide connectivity via the Internet. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than across the Middle East and Africa where we are looking at the highest growth rate in the world with 2.4 billion new devices and connections to be added by 2020," said Mike Weston, Vice President, Cisco Middle East. "The rapid increase in connected devices and IP traffic will create new opportunities that arise from digitization, delivering benefits such as reduced costs, increased efficiency and improvement in the lives of citizens."

Video services and content continue to be the dominant leader compared with all other applications. Internet video will account for 79 percent of global Internet traffic by 2020-up from 63 percent in 2015. The world will reach three trillion Internet video minutes per month by 2020, which is five million years of video per month, or about one million video minutes every second. HD and Ultra HD Internet video will make up 82 percent of Internet video traffic by 2020-up from 53 percent in 2015.

In Middle East and Africa, Internet video traffic will grow 8-fold from 2015 to 2020, a compound annual growth rate of 52 percent. This means that for MEA 169 billion minutes (321,793 years) of video content will cross the Internet each month in 2020. That's 64,359 minutes of video streamed or downloaded every second.

IoT advancements

Advancements in the Internet of Things (IoT) are continuing to drive IP traffic and tangible growth in the market. Applications such as video surveillance, smart meters, digital health monitors and a host of other M2M services are creating new network requirements and incremental traffic increases. Globally, M2M connections are calculat-

ed to grow nearly three-fold from 4.9 billion in 2015 to 12.2 billion by 2020, representing nearly half (46 percent) of total connected devices. The connected health consumer segment will have the fastest growth (five-fold) of M2M connections from 2015 (144 million) to 2020 (729 million). The connected home segment will have the largest volume of M2M connections over the forecast period with 2.4 billion in 2015, growing to 5.8 billion by 2020-nearly half of all M2M connections.

With the growing dependence on mobile and fixed broadband networks, security concerns are increasingly becoming top of mind for service providers, governments, businesses and consumers. For the first time in this forecast, Cisco collaborated with Arbor Networks to help quantify the current and future threats of DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attacks. The new DDoS analysis suggests that these types of breaches can represent up to 10 percent of a country's total Internet traffic while



Mike Weston, Vice President, Cisco Middle East

they are occurring. Over the next five years, DDoS attacks are projected to increase from 6.6 million to 17 million attacks. These initial findings underscore the need for more comprehensive security measures to protect data and reduce network exposure to such risks.

APPLE TO LOSE WEIGHTING IN RUSSELL INDEX, SHARES TO FALL

NEW YORK: After dropping more than \$200 billion in market capitalization in one year, Apple shares could fall further as they are set to lose their weighting and be reclassified in the annual reconstitution of the widely followed Russell indexes. When all is said and done, about \$1.3 billion more will be sold in Apple Inc shares at the market close on Friday, when the reconstitution of the Russell indexes takes effect, according to an analysis by Credit Suisse.

Because Apple has been aggressively buying back and retiring its stock, outstanding shares have dropped to less than 5.5 billion from 5.8 billion in late June 2015, when the Russell indexes were last recalibrated, according to Reuters data. Apple's weighting in the Russell 1000 will roughly fall to 2.52 percent from 2.77 percent, Credit Suisse said. The decline is due to the combination of fewer shares outstanding and Apple's smaller part of the index's capi-

The performance of a market-weighted index is more influenced by larger companies, like Apple. With the changes, fund managers who are pegged to the index, including exchange-traded funds, will have to sell the stock to match the new, lower weighting.

Roughly \$96 billion in US fund assets are benchmarked directly to the Russell 1000, according to a Reuters analysis of Morningstar Inc data. That compares to \$2.2 trillion pegged globally to the S&P 500, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. Adding to the selling pressure, Apple will be classified as both a value and a growth company at Russell. After the close on Friday, 92 percent of Apple will be considered "growth" and 8 percent "value" according to index provider FTSE Russell, splitting 2.3 percent on the day.—Reuters

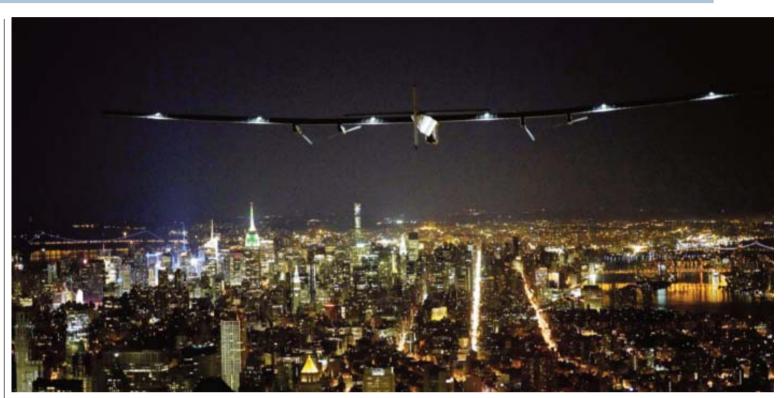
it between two Russell subindexes.

The move matters because value managers that peg their investments to the Russell indexes will be buying Apple while growth managers will be selling. Because there are more assets benchmarked to growth than to value, there will be net selling of Apple, said Meera Krishnan, US index strategist at Credit Suisse in New York. She estimated there will be over \$850 million of selling in Apple out of the growth component of the Russell 1000 and about \$400 million of buying from the value side.

Almost 1,900 large-cap growth funds own Apple shares versus fewer than 1,000 large-cap value holders, according to Morningstar data to the end of May.

Growth funds had been shedding Apple stock since last year. "Indices are moving to confirm what the market has already been saying, which is it is a growth and value stock," said Graham Tanaka, portfolio manager of the Tanaka Growth Fund in New York. He said he has trimmed the fund's Apple stake but it is still a "major holding."

"The question is when and how Apple can reaccelerate their growth rate," he said. "We're playing the waiting game." This market perception was cemented in May when Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc disclosed an investment of nearly \$1 billion in Apple. Buffett's investments usually favor strong balance sheets and management, characteristics of a value play, over heady growth prospects. Apple's shares are down 9 percent since late April when it reported results, including its first-ever decline in iPhone sales and first revenue drop in 13 years. Since its \$133 closing high in February 2015, the stock has dropped 28 percent. It closed Friday at \$95.33, down



NEW YORK: The sun-powered Solar Impulse 2 aircraft flying over New York City after Andre Borschberg took off from Lehigh Valley to New York as he embarks on the transatlantic leg of his record-breaking flight around the world to promote renewable energy.—AFP

SOLAR IMPULSE 2 AIRCRAFT BEGINS ATLANTIC CROSSING

PILOT PICCARD TO TAKE SHORT NAPS DURING 90-HOUR FLIGHT

NEW YORK: The Solar Impulse 2 aircraft was flying over the western Atlantic yesterday morning on one of the most difficult legs of its recordbreaking bid to cross the globe using only solar energy. The plane, which took off from New York's JFK airport at around 2:30 am (0630 GMT), is piloted by Swiss adventurer Bertrand Piccard, who is expected to spend approximately 90 hours-during which he will take only short naps-

crossing the Atlantic. "It's my first time taking off from JFK," Piccard said over a live feed from the aircraft as he headed off into the night sky en route to Spain's Seville Airport. Several hours later he posted on Twitter that despite a previous full moon there is "now a pink sky in front of me, the day is waking up." The voyage marks the first solo transatlantic crossing in a solar-powered airplane and is expected to last four consecutive days and nights, depending on weather.

The plane, which is no heavier than a car but has the wingspan of a Boeing 747, is being flown on its 22,000-mile (35,000-kilometer) trip by two pilots taking turns, Piccard and Swiss entrepreneur Andre Borschberg. "I'm in the cockpit this time, but we're flying together," Piccard told Borschberg before takeoff. The pair have flown varying legs of the journey, with Borschberg piloting the flight's final Pacific stage, a 4,000mile (6,437-kilometer) flight between Japan and Hawaii. The 118-hour leg smashed the previous record for the longest uninterrupted journey in aviation history. The plane, now on the 15th leg of its east-west trip, set out on March 9, 2015 in Abu Dhabi, and has taken the aircraft across Asia and the Pacific to the United States with the sun as its only source of power.

'Smooth takeoff'

"Smooth takeoff and all #Si2 systems have been checked here at the Mission Control Center for the #Atlantic Crossing," Borschberg posted on Twitter soon after Solar Impulse 2's departure. Prince Albert of Monaco, a patron of the project, gave the flight the go-ahead from its mission control center in Monaco, telling Piccard "you are released to proceed." Approximately a third of the journey still remains for the plane, which will fly through Europe and on to Abu Dhabi after crossing the Atlantic.

The single-seat aircraft is clad in 17,000 solar cells. During nighttime flights it runs on batterystored power. "Solar Impulse is like a flying smart grid, and if we can make it work in an airplane. where we can't cheat, we can make it work on the ground, in our cities, for our homes and for all applications," Borschberg said in a statement.

The plane typically travels at a mere 30 miles (48 kilometers) per hour, although its flight speed can double when exposed to full sunlight.

"Best of luck on this wonderful adventure @bertrandpiccard & all the team," British billionaire entrepreneur Richard Branson, owner of space tourism company Virgin Galactic, posted on Twitter. Piccard and Borschberg are no strangers to adventure. Piccard, a psychiatrist, made the first non-stop balloon flight around the world in 1999. Meanwhile, Borschberg only narrowly escaped an avalanche 15 years ago and in 2013 survived a helicopter crash with minor injuries. — AFP

CHINA TOPS SUPERCOMPUTER SPEED LIST FOR SEVENTH YEAR

BEIJING: A Chinese supercomputer has topped a list of the world's fastest computers for the seventh straight year - and for the first time the winner uses only Chinese-designed processors instead of US technology.

The announcement yesterday is a new milestone for Chinese supercomputer development and a further erosion of past US dominance of the field. Last year's Chinese winner in the TOP500 ranking maintained by researchers in the United States and Germany slipped to No 2, followed by a computer at the US government's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. Also this year, China displaced the United States for the first time as the country with the most supercomputers in the top 500. China had 167 systems and the United States had 165. Japan was a distant No. 3 with 29 systems.

Supercomputers are one of a series of technologies targeted by China's ruling Communist Party for development and have received heavy financial support. Such systems are used for weather forecasting, designing nuclear weapons, analyzing oilfields and other specialized purposes. "Considering that just 10 years ago, China claimed a mere 28 systems on the list, with none ranked in the top 30, the nation has come further and faster than any other country in the history of supercomputing," the TOP500 organizers said in a statement.

This year's champion is the Sunway TaihuLight at the National Supercomputing Center in Wuxi, west of Shanghai, according to TOP500. It was developed by China's National Research Center of Parallel Computer Engineering & Technology using entirely Chinese-designed processors.

The TaihuLight is capable of 93 petaflops, or quadrillion calculations per second, according to TOP500. It is intended for use in engineering and research including climate, weather, life sciences, advanced manufacturing and data analytics.

Its top speed is about five times that of Oak Ridge's Titan, which uses Cray, NVIDIA and Opteron technology. Other countries with computers in the Top 10 were Japan, Switzerland, Germany and Saudi Arabia. The TaihuLight is due to be introduced Tuesday at the International Supercomputing Conference in Frankfurt by the director of the Wuxi center, Guangwen Yang.

Homegrown processors

"As the first No. 1 system of China that is completely based on homegrown processors, the Sunway TaihuLight system demonstrates the significant progress that China has made in the domain of designing and manufacturing largescale computation systems," Yang was quoted as saying in the TOP500 statement. The TaihuLight uses Chinese-developed ShenWei processors, "ending any remaining speculation that China would have to rely on Western technology to compete effectively in the upper echelons of supercomputing,"TOP500 said in a statement.

The second-fastest computer, the Tianhe-2 at the National Supercomputer Center in the southern city of Guangzhou, is capable of 33 petaflops. It uses chips made by Intel Corp.

Among countries with the most computers on the top 500 list, Germany was in fourth place with 26 systems, France was next with 18, followed by Britain with 12. The TOP500 is compiled by Erich Strohmaier of NERSC/Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Jack Dongarra of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Horst Simon of NERSC/Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and Martin Meuer of Prometeus GmbH, a German technology company. Another contributor, Hans Meuer of Germany's University of Mannheim, died in 2014. —AP



JIANGSU: The Sunway TaihuLight, a new Chinese supercomputer, is seen in Wuxi, eastern China's Jiangsu Province. A supercomputer from China has topped a global list of the fastest systems for a seventh straight year, and for the first time the winner, Sunway TaihuLight, uses only Chinese-designed processors instead of US technology. —AP

TOYOTA'S US ROBOTICS BOSS PROMISES RESULTS IN 5 YEARS

TOKYO: The US robotics expert tapped to head Toyota's Silicon Valley research company says the \$1 billion investment by the giant Japanese automaker will start showing results within five years. Gill Pratt told reporters that the Toyota Research Institute is also looking ahead into the distant future when there will be cars that anyone, including children and the elderly, can ride in on their own, as well as robots that help out in homes. Pratt, a former program manager at the US military's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, joined Toyota Motor Corp. first as a technical adviser when it set up its artificial intelligence research effort at Stanford University and MIT.

He said safety features will be the first types of AI applications to appear in Toyota vehicles. Such features are already offered on some models now being sold, such as sensors that help cars brake or warn drivers before a possible crash, and cars that drive themselves automatically into parking spaces or on certain roads. "I expect something to come out during those five years," Pratt told reporters recently at Toyota's Tokyo office of the timeframe seen for the investment.

"It is very important to understand that what we are doing has high risk and that some of our efforts will not be entirely successful but we expect some of them to be very successful," he said.

Most automakers, such as General Motors, Tesla and Nissan, are competing on autonomous driving and connecting cars to the internet, while several big companies outside the auto industry, including Google, Apple and Uber, are also eyeing the business.

He said that only in the future will there be what he called "hyper-exponential growth" in capability, when all robots are connected together in a network, sharing information on the cloud and helping each other improve.

No one knows when that might happen, although Pratt said that was likely within two decades. "Someday, these cars will be safe enough that children could go from one place to the other without having a soccer mom having to drive or a soccer dad," he said. Toyota has already shown an R2-D2-like robot designed to help the elderly, the sick and people in wheelchairs by picking up and carrying objects. The automaker has also shown human-shaped entertainment robots that can converse and play musical instruments.

Toyota, which makes the Prius hybrid, Camry sedan and the luxury Lexus models, already uses sophisticated robotic arms and computers in auto production. While Pratt's institute, which started operating this year, will have exchanges with Toyota's other divisions, such as the robotics one, including having employees going back and forth, company strategy is not part of his work. "Our job is to explore what is possible, what might work. We don't actually know what's going to work," he said. —AP



TOKYO: Toyota Motor Corp's Executive Technical Advisor Gill Pratt delivers a speech during a press conference on artificial intelligence in Tokyo. The US robotics expert tapped to head Toyota's Silicon Valley research company says the \$1 billion investment by the giant Japanese automaker will start showing results within five years. —AP

AN ISLAND REFUGE FOR TANZANIA'S ALBINO PEOPLE

dawn on Ukerewe island in Lake Victoria and Alphonce Yakobo, face and hands withered by the scorching sun that has tortured his pigment-free skin for all of his 57 years, is vigorously sweeping the leaves

UKEREWE, Tanzania: It's an hour after outside his house. "This is the best time of the day: The day has begun but the sun is not yet up," he says. In a few minutes time Yakobo will put on a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses and slather sunscreen over every bit of his exposed skin.



UKEREWE: Albino girls sit as they wait at a clinic run by the Standing Voice NGO on Ukerewe Island in Lake Victoria during International Albinism Awareness Day on June 13, 2016. —AFP

Yakobo suffers from a genetic condition called albinism, meaning his body does not produce melanin leaving his skin, hair and eyes devoid of pigmentation and protection from the sun. Like all people with albinism, Yakobo has very poor eyesight and is extremely vulnerable to skin cancer. But the sun overhead is not the only threat to albinos. Here in Tanzania, as well as in Malawi and some other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, albino body parts are sought after for potions and charms thought to bring luck and wealth, and many fall victim to murderers who dismember their bodies to supply this grisly black market trade.

Canadian charity Under The Same Sun (UTSS) has documented 161 attacks on people with albinism in Tanzania in recent years, including 76 murders, more than anywhere else in Africa. Yet Ukerewe island is relatively untouched by this phenomenon. "There were times when I was afraid in the past, but now I thank God because we can sleep at night without a gun," says Yakobo, who works as a fishmonger in Ukerewe market. "Here, we are safe, we are surrounded by water, no one can commit a crime and escape easily," said Yakobo, who has

three wives but regrets that not one of the island to dig albino corpses from his 11 children is albino. "We could talk, and I would feel like I had passed on a part of myself."

Murder-Free Zone

Over the years, Ukerewe has become known as a haven for people with albinism. People say that it started long ago when families would abandon their albino relatives on the island, believing their unusual, ghostly appearance was the sign of a curse. They survived and thrived and others, ostracized by society, made their way there too. "In many respects, Ukerewe is at the forefront of integration of albinos in society. And I think the fact that it's an island plays a big part in the minds of people, but reality is a bit more nuanced," says Harry Freeland, founder of the non-governmental organisation Standing Voice and the maker of a documentary about

According to the Ukerewe Albino Society (UAS) there are 75 people with albinism living on the island of 200,000, a proportion roughly in keeping with the national average. As elsewhere in Tanzania, body-snatchers have come to

their graves and in 2007 one person was attacked and had his white hair cut for use in witchcraft, says Vicky Ntetema, director of the Tanzanian branch of UTSS. "But we have never had an albino murder," points out Ramadhan Khalifa, president of Ukerewe's albino community.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2016

Abandoned

"Ukerewe is unique in that sense," says Freeland. "It was in Ukerewe that the first census was done. The initiative came from the former president of UAS, and it was in 2006." "I'm not afraid of being attacked," says Kajanja Neema, 36, dissecting tiny fish for the evening meal, along a busy street from the main town of the island. His brother Zacharia accompanies his songs with an air guitar. "Yes, Ukerewe is safer than mainland, but it's not perfect," he said, "Sometimes, people say they will kill us, and we never know if they mean it or not." Even if physical violence is rare, discrimination is not. Hadija Namtondo is a 30-year old mother with black skin and a four-year-old albino son called Riziki. "When his father saw the color of the child, he was not happy, and he has abandoned us," she says. —AFP

AFRICAN SUMMIT TACKLES VIOLENCE AGAINST ALBINOS

DAR ES SALAAM: A "Miss and Mister Albino" contest, heavy sentences for ritual murder and concrete graves to ward off tomb raiders were all discussed at a UN summit on albinism that concluded in Tanzania yesterday. During the four-day meeting people with albinism and advocates for their rights discussed ways to safeguard and improve the lives of those who suffer discrimination, health problems and even murder as a result of the condition that leaves their skin without pigment.

It is a particular problem in Africa in general and in Tanzania in particular, which is why the East African nation was chosen to host the summit. "Of all the regions in the world, Africa is the most hostile for people with albinism," said Ikponwosa Ero, an independent expert on albinism. Some 150 civil society and government representatives from 29 African countries, many of them albino themselves, gathered in Dar Es Salaam to swap experiences and ideas on improving security and integration.

In Africa, the scorching sun makes people with albinism particularly susceptible to skin cancer while discrimination and prejudice sees them attacked or shunned in several countries. Albino graves have been looted and people killed to supply a

NS WITH ALBINISM

grisly black market trade in albino body parts thought by some to bring good luck or wealth. Under The Same Sun, a Canadian charity, has documented 457 attacks on albinos - including 178 murders - in 26 African countries mostly over the last decade, although the precise extent of the phenomenon is hard to define because of the secrecy surrounding the illegal trade in albino

'Unprecedented' Onslaught

"The idea is to build a roadmap of simple, effective and cheap measures", said Ero, including basic pro-

tections such as ensuring people

DAR ES SALAAM: Vice President of the Albino Association of Malawi Alex Michila talks to a delegate during a regional conference on albinism organized by the United Nations (UN) on June 18, 2016. —AFP

with albinism are surrounded by trusted neighbors and have a lockable door to their homes. It was also suggested that albino graves should be protected from body-snatchers by using cement to cover the graves so that the bodies can't be exhumed. Alex Michila, vice president of the Albino Association of Amnesty Malawi, where International recently described an "unprecedented" wave of attacks, said it was important that albino children be encouraged to "interact with people who do not have albinism" to foster integration. Possi Abdallah, Tanzania's deputy minister for disability and himself an albino, argued for the importance of "exemplary and dissuasive" sentences for those convicted of killing people with albinism.

Kenya a Good Student

Ero said the roadmap should be drafted by late 2017 and will then be submitted to the African Union. "Having a pan-African voice is crucially important, because we need to put pressure on governments in Africa," said Jon Beale, director of the non-government organization Standing Voice. "Together we have more weight." Kenya is seen as setting a good example in the region, by providing government-funded cancer treatment, sunscreen distribution programs and setting up an emergency hotline for reporting attacks on people with albinism.

The presence of albinos in Kenya's public sphere - such as the MP Isaac Mwaura and high court judge Grace Ngugi - was also hailed as a positive sign, as was the plan to hold a Miss and Mr Albino contest in Nairobi on Sept 9. "When you have Miss and Mr Albinism, we redefine ourselves as beautiful and handsome people, we are not ghosts," said Mwaura. —AFP



HOUSTON: In this Feb 10, 2016 file photo, Darryl Nevins, owner of a Mosquito Joe franchise, sprays a backyard to control mosquitoes. —AP

AS ZIKA LOOMS, US OFFICIALS WORRYING ABOUT NEIGHBORS

HOUSTON: Saron Wyatt pointed to the secluded end of her small street in Houston's impoverished Fifth Ward, where a mound of old tyres keeps popping up. Always a trashy nuisance, it's now a growing danger. Tyres collect water and become prime breeding grounds for mosquitoes - especially the ones that spread Zika virus disease and other tropical mosquito-borne illnesses. Wyatt, a mother of five, doesn't know where the tires are coming from. But she's worried about it, and so are health officials.

Spraying for the type of mosquito that carries Zika is not always effective, and they can breed in pools of standing water as small as a Styrofoam cup. That means vacant lots or messy yards may need to be cleaned up, whether the owner of the mess wants it cleaned or not. Dr Umair Shah, the head of Houston's county health department, called getting the cooperation of local residents his department's biggest issue. "It's really about a neighbor who might have sources of breeding on their property that can impact a neighbor two or three houses down," he said.

Experts believe the vast majority of neighbors will comply. But not all. For months now, the federal government has been urging local health officials to review local nuisance ordinances and plot how to handle property owners who are combative or can't be found. During a recent outbreak of dengue fever in Hawaii that involved the same mosquito that can spread Zika, health officials went to more than 500 properties to survey or spray. In 23 cases, residents refused requests to enter.

It happened again in March, when health officials went to see a Kauai resident who was infected with Zika after traveling to an outbreak area in Latin America. Initially, the person would not allow health officials onto the rental property. But when a team returned for a follow-up visit, a family member let them in to look for mosquito breeding areas. "For the most part, we do get good cooperation," said Keith Kawaoka, deputy director for environmental health at Hawaii's state health department. But sometimes cooperation only comes only

after a couple of conversations. Zika has been sweeping through Latin America and the Caribbean in recent months, and the fear is that it will get worse there and arrive in the US with the onset of mosquito season this summer. Zika causes only a mild and brief illness, at worst, in most people. But it can cause fetal deaths and severe birth defects in the children of women infected during pregnancy. After West Nile Virus, another mosquito-borne disease, hit the United States in 1999, the response was often to spray wide areas using trucks and aircraft.

But the kinds of mosquitoes that primarily spread West Nile are different from the Aedes aegypti mosquito that spreads Zika and dengue. That tropical pest likes to live very close to people, and immediately around their homes. If someone is diagnosed with Zika and health officials determine that they were infected by a local mosquito, officials will draw a circle around their house with a radius of about 150 yards. That's roughly half a block in many cities. An Aedes aegypti mosquito doesn't travel farther than that during its typical three-week

Next, health officials or mosquito control workers will visit the properties within that circle and look for standing water where mosquitoes may be breeding, including Styrofoam cups, flower pots, and old tyres. They will work with the property owner to remove them, or treat them with chemicals that kill mosquito larvae. Some people may not want such an intrusion. In Hawaii during its dengue outbreak, much of the resistance came from organic farmers and beekeepers wary of chemical sprays, Kawaoka said.

Autonomy

But there may be other cases in which a property occupant is hiding an illegal activity and doesn't want health officials snooping around. Or, there may be people who simply don't want anyone from the government on their land, some experts said. "In modern America, there's been a lot of focus on individual autonomy," said Lawrence Gostin, a public health law expert at Georgetown University. Health officials think health they would be able to beat back a legal challenge to government intervention because courts have long allowed the government to intrude onto private property to deal with situations that may be harmful to the public, Gostin said.

Wyatt doesn't know where the tyres on her street in Houston come from, but she doesn't think it's her neighbors. She considers the people on her block to be quiet people who don't come out of their houses much but don't appear to cause any trouble. "They all look out for one another," she said. But health officials in Harris County have had mixed results trying to clear up dumping grounds and standing water. And mosquito control staff are fielding complaints from people tired of seeing staffers walk on their property to monitor mosquito traps that officials have set up to try to detect Zika before human infection, said Martin Reyna Nava, technical operations manager for the county's mosquito control division.

He stressed that the vast majority of people cooperate. But Shah and others are concerned that some trouble spots will keep popping up, at least until a local Zika case occurs in the community and makes people realize that the danger is real. "There may be folks who say, 'Nah, I'm not really interested in helping," Shah said. "That's where the challenge comes in." —AP

SCIENTISTS BATTLE TO SAVE WORLD'S CORAL REEFS

HONOLULU: After the most powerful El Nino on record heated the world's oceans to never-before-seen levels, huge swaths of once vibrant coral reefs that were teeming with life are now stark white ghost towns disintegrating into the sea. And the world's top marine scientists are still struggling in the face of global warming and decades of devastating reef destruction to find the political and financial wherewithal to

tackle the loss of these globally important ecosystems. "What we have to do is to really translate the urgency," said Ruth Gates, president of the International Society for Reef Studies and director of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. Gates, who helped organize a conference this week for more than 2,000 international reef scientists, policymakers and others, said the scientific community needs to make it clear how "intimately reef health is intertwined with human health."

The International Coral Reef Symposium convenes Monday to try to create a more unified conservation plan for coral reefs. She said researchers have to find a way to implement large scale solutions with the help of governments. Consecutive years of coral bleaching have led to some of the most widespread mortality of reefs on record, leaving scientists in a race to save them. While bleached coral often recovers, multiple years weakens the organisms and increases the risk of death.

Researchers have achieved some success with projects such as creating coral nurseries and growing forms of "super coral" that can withstand harsher conditions. But much of that science is being done on a very small scale with limited funding. Bob Richmond, director of the University of Hawaii's Kewalo Marine Laboratory, said the problems are very clear: "overfishing of reef herbivores and top predators, land-based sources of pollution and sedimentation, and the continued and growing impacts of climate change."

Integral

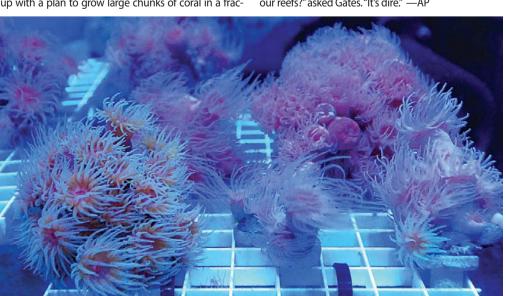
While reefs are major contributors to many coastal tourist economies, saving the world's coral isn't just about having pretty places for vacationers to explore. Reefs are integral to the overall ecosystem and are an essential component of everyday human existence. Reefs not only provide habitat for most ocean fish consumed by humans, but they also shelter land from storm surges and rising sea levels. Coral has even been found to have medicinal properties.

In one project to help save reefs, researchers at the University of Hawaii's Institute of Marine Biology have been taking samples from corals that have shown tolerance for harsher conditions in Oahu's Kaneohe Bay and breeding them with other strong strains in slightly warmer than normal conditions to create a super coral. The idea is to make the corals more resilient by training them to adapt to tougher conditions before transplanting them into the ocean.

Another program run by the state of Hawaii has created seed banks and a fast-growing coral nursery for expediting coral restoration projects. Most of Hawaii's species of coral are unlike other corals around the world in that they grow very slowly, which makes reef rebuilding in the state difficult. So officials came up with a plan to grow large chunks of coral in a fraction of the time it would normally take.

Coral reefs have almost always been studied up close, by scientists in the water looking at small portions of reefs. But NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory is taking a wider view, from about 23,000 feet above. NASA and other scientists recently launched a threeyear campaign to gather new data on coral reefs worldwide. They are using specially designed imaging instruments attached to aircraft. "The idea is to get a new perspective on coral reefs from above, to study them at a larger scale than we have been able to before, and then relate reef condition to the environment," said Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences' Eric Hochberg, principal investigator for the project.

If the scientific community and the world's governments can't come together to address coral's decline, one of earth's most critical habitats could soon be gone, leaving humans to deal with the unforeseen consequences. "What happens if we don't take care of our reefs?" asked Gates. "It's dire." —AP



HONOLULU: In this Feb 11, 2016 photo, rare species of Hawaiian coral being used to create a seed bank grows in a tank at the Anuenue Fisheries Research Center's coral nursery. —AP

HEALTH & SCIENCE





A HELPING HAND TO TREAT CHILDREN WITH CP

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Raising a child with cerebral palsy (CP) can take lots of time, effort, empathy and patience. Cerebral palsy is a physical disability that makes it difficult for children to control their muscles and movements. Most children with CP can live long, happy, quality lives, but their care may involve more visits to the doctor, require therapies or medications and perhaps surgery. The good news is that now there are many options for children with cerebral palsy and their parents in terms of medical and surgical treatments, practical help and social care support, as well as a wealth of information resources.

Kuwait Times spoke with Svitlana Arndt, General Manager of Arndt Clinic International Company, to know more about the best treatment and methods for children with CP. Arndt Clinic International Company is skilled to deal with patients with cerebral palsy and other neurological diseases.

KT: Tell us more about Arndt Clinic International Company.

Svitlana: Our company is the official representative of the International Clinic of Rehabilitation in Ukraine. Arndt Clinic International Comaintains close virtual daily contact with management and physicians from the International Clinic of Rehabilitation in Ukraine to arrange swift correspondence and fast processing of necessary medical and other data about each patient. We provide information about the necessity to undergo a rehabilitation course and comprehensive information about the course program, available options of treatment and accommodations, flights, weather,

We are offering the perfect treatment in a perfect place at an outstanding price. The cost of a oneday stay for three people in spacious, specially designed triple room with three meals is KD 56. It is a unique rehabilitation center where the parents of the child can stay and provide the needed support during the treatment. We take care of all travel arrangements. Also, our company arranges doctor consultations, medical correspondence, scheduling the time of the treatment, arranging travel insurance, translation services and visa assistance for citizens and expats living in Kuwait. The International Clinic of Rehabilitation is located in one of the most beautiful places of western Ukraine - Truskavets, a very famous place for resorts, sanatoriums, natural springs of mineral water and beautiful mountain

scenery.

KT: What is cerebral palsy?

Svitlana: Cerebral palsy is a serious neurological disease, which is complicated but curable. Cerebral palsy (CP) is a physical disability that affects movement and posture - cerebral (of the brain); palsy (lack of muscle control). Cerebral palsy is an umbrel-



Svitlana Arndt, General Manager of Arndt Clinic International Company

la term that refers to a group of disorders affecting the person's ability to move. **KT:** What kind of rehabilitation do you offer?

Svitlana: The treatment that we offer is a complex of therapeutically treatments that do not require surgery and Botox injections. It was a great opportunity to meet the Ukrainian legendary doctor - Volodymyr Kozyavkin. He is a man with golden hands and a brilliant mind. Professor Volodymyr developed his skill, knowledge and devotion to the extent of creating the new intensive neurophysiologic rehabilitation system called Kozyavkin method. This method has become one of Ukraine's national achievements in medicine because of its

Professor Volodymyr built the unique clinic in Truskavets where more than 70,000 patients have already received help. Kozyavkin's method involves two to four weeks of highly effective and intensive treatment for patients with cerebral palsy.

KT: How does the method Kozyavkin work for each child with CP?

Svitlana: Kozyavkin's method can significantly improve the condition of the patient and in some cases cure it completely. Every child is treated by the individually tailored program. INRS is a multimode rehabilitation system in which the influence of one component is complemented and intensified by the others. Main treatment programs include biomechanical correction of the spine, extremity joint mobilization, reflexotherapy, mobilizing physical

exercises, special massage system, rhythmical group exercises, mechanotherapy and apitherapy. Kozyavkin becomes an active participant in the treatment process, making each procedure and achieve results understandable and desirable. The motivation of children and parents receiving this treatment is very high and efficient.

KT: What are the most noticeable improvements you have seen with kids who have CP?

Svitlana: The best result I saw was when a tiny girl with CP after few courses of treatment in International Clinic Rehabilitation started walking and jumping. She grew into a healthy strong child with all physical abilities to join a regular school and showed the best results in the class. Such fabulous transformation happened because of systematic treatment and close cooperation between her family and the medical team.

KT: What advice do you have for parents on providing their input on selecting the right therapy?

Svitlana: I advise the parents to start the treatment at early ages, and not rush for Botox injections and operation, because there are better solutions. Early intervention or early correction is the new approach in treatment of children with CP and other neurological diseases. Doctors of International Clinic for Rehabilitation are providing consultation and treatment for children starting from six months old. Profound knowledge and decades of experience is the best guarantee for receiving high quality care that is calculated by the parents of the patients.

Mutual trust of parents and children with doctors and warm emotional environment enhances the positive treatment result.

KT: Can you tell us a little bit about some of your successful cases? And what are the disadvantages and advantages you face in regards to day-to-day activity?

Svitlana: Statistical analysis of the medical records of a group of 12,256 patients, treated by the Dr Kozyavkin's method confirmed high efficiency of this rehabilitation system. Muscle tone normalization was noted in 94 percent of patients, improvement of the head control in supine position was noted in 75 percent of patients, 62 percent patients who were unable to sit before the treatment have learned to sit, 19 percent of patients began to walk without assistance, and 87 percent of patients, after the treatment, were able to open their spastically fisted hand.

KT: What is the biggest challenge for Arndt Clinic?

Svitlana: Many patients from Kuwait have already got a chance to be treated by the professor personally and his team of doctors. It makes me happy when I meet people who have already visited the clinic because their recollections are full of appreciation and satisfaction. Our task is to spread the word about success of Professor Kozyavkin's method and his clinic in Ukraine. Our marketing and public activity will engage every concerned person, public institution, government department and specialized clinic. Our assistance should facili-

tate the medical trip to ICR in Truskavets and make it comfortable and affordable for the patient of any nationality living in Kuwait. Together, we can all help to heal our children.



Prof Volodymyr Kozyavkins



Kuwait 248 33 199





SHERATON KUWAIT MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

FIFTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AND SUCCESS

heraton Kuwait Hotel celebrates this year the 50th anniversary of its inception to be the first mover in the Middle East dates back to 1966 with the debut of the Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel, the company's first hotel to open outside of the United States, and the first five-star hotel in Kuwait to be managed by an international company. This year 2016 is an exceptional year with half a century of excellence and success at a steady pace and real leadership.

The Sheraton Kuwait has a proven track record of achievements and successes which strengthened its presence over many years in addition to the loyalty of its guests as well as major companies and all those who give Sheraton Kuwait the real fence in this excellence and true symbol of its success to be the favorite milestone in Kuwait.

The Sheraton Kuwait has won many prestigious awards and International certificates of appreciation and has been appraised from the world and celebrities and hosted over the five decades millions of guests and some of them experienced the stages of its development and the expansion that added value to its high-end services in addition to the extraordinary weddings held in its great ballrooms especially the Diamond Grand Ballroom throughout the generations.

The hotel is considered the best choice for the Arab, regional and international summits and launched by international organizations and a lot of successful events due to the extensive experience in the hospitality industry.

On this occasion, Fahed Abushaar- the General Manager of the Sheraton Kuwait, who joined the hotel since the eighties and still to this present time, mentioned that it is indescribable feeling to talk about half a century of success, it is a story written in Gold letters and we look through it to move forward toward greater excellence and success.

Abushaar added: "Thanks for all government, private sectors, businessmen, companies and guests for their trust and believe in Sheraton Kuwait", also he appreciated the great attitude of the executive management and all associates for their great efforts and support to move forward with a series of success, especially with the Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, where guests have given the trust to serve them better and the restaurants in the Grand Avenue- the avenues, which is a qualitative leap in the world of hospitality.



GUST RANKED AMONG TOP 100 UNIVERSITIES BY QUACQUARELLI SYMONDS



ulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) has ranked 73rd in the Arab region according to data provided by one of the most influential international university rankings firms, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Limited.

GUST is the only private university in Kuwait to make the list, making it the top-ranked private educational institution in Kuwait. Only two universities from Kuwait were ranked among the top 100, with the other being Kuwait University coming at 24th. Almost 970 institutions were evaluated during the exercise. Of these, 100 appear in the published ranking.

GUST Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof Salem Al-Tuhaih said, "Being recognized as one of the top 100 universities in the region reflects the level of education GUST provides. Furthermore, being the only private university from Kuwait in the top 100 is a major achievement for such a young university. This is a testimony to the success of our policies towards diversification, openness, and focus on quality. We are committed to pro-

viding graduates that are the most capable of contributing towards their country and its development".

First published in 2014, the annual QS University Rankings: Arab Region highlights the 100 leading universities in this part of the world. Their methodology for ranking has been developed with the aim of reflecting specific challenges and priorities for institutions in the region, drawing on nine indicators including Academic Reputation and Papers per Faculty.

University President, Prof Donald Bates said, "This is a great accomplishment as GUST is the first ever private university from Kuwait to make the list. I am excited to see that the dedication and distinguished caliber of our faculty, talented students, hardworking staff, and our supporting administration is being recognized. The QS ranking shows that GUST continues to maintain its leadership among private universities in Kuwait in key areas covered by the survey. This wouldn't have been possible without the vision and support of GUST's Board of Trustees."



GUST Chairman of the Board of Trustees Prof Salem Al-Tuhaih

GUSTs strategic goal is to enhance the position in the coming couple of years and to be listed in the international rankings. QS World University Rankings, Times Higher Education World University Rankings, and US News Best Global Universities provide one of the few external measures of university strength and can be a factor in how prospective students choose the right school.

Gulf University for Science and Technology was founded in 2002 as



University President Prof Donald Bates

the first private university in Kuwait. GUST is based on an American-style model of higher education and currently hosts approximately 3,500 full-time students. Among the degrees offered at GUST is a BA in Mass Communication with a focus on Radio and TV Broadcasting, Public Relations and Advertising, or Visual Communication.

KUWAIT NATIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOL PRESCHOOL GRADUATION AND KINDERGARTEN SUMMER CONCERT



uwait National English School continued its summer celebrations on last Monday evening as the youngest of our children celebrated their first year of school in the Charlotte Preschool and Graduated to the Early Years Foundation Stage. Along with their cele-

brating with song and dance the end of their very successful year.

These children had a lot to celebrate as they showed a large crowd of parents how far they have developed into burgeoning successful students and socially responsible young boys and girls

Kuwait National English School is always proud of their students and this year was no exception. Congratulations boys and girls and we look forward to being part of your ongoing growth next year.

















Ooredoo management and Huawei team at the tent.

Ooredoo management and Huawei team at the tent.

HUAWEI PARTICIPATES IN 1FTAR DISTRIBUTION AT OOREDOO TENT

number of Huawei employees at Ooredoo Kuwait's Technology department participated in distributing meals in Ooredoo's iftar tent last week. The meal distribution was attended by the acting Cheif Operating Officer Tamer Shibl, Chief

Technology Officer Hendrik Vorster, Senior Director of Customer Care Wael Sultan, **Director of Corporate Communications Mijbil** Alalyoub, and Senior Manager of CSR, Sponsorships and Social Media Yousef Al-Shallal. The event was also attended by the

Huawei team working with Ooredoo's technology department, led by acting account manager Tony Chen.

Earlier this month, Ooredoo announced that it will be distributing 17,000 iftar meals during the Holy Month of Ramadan through a

distribution center outside its head office and in its iftar tent, which Ooredoo is running for the second consecutive year. The tent is located opposite Ooredoo's head office on Soor Street in Kuwait City. The meal distribution drive is fully operated by Ooredoo's volunteer

program members, after the great success of the program last year. In addition to the Iftar distribution drive, Ooredoo is conducting several charitable events, such as visits to nursing homes, orphanages and patients at different hospitals across Kuwait to celebrate Girgian.



Huawei team distributing meals.



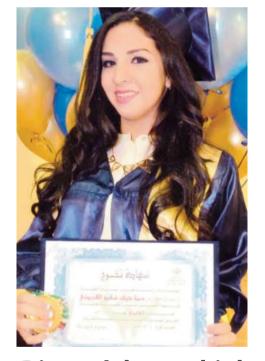
Mijbil Alayoub distributing meals.



SAMSUNG

Tamer Shibl distributing iftar meals.

Congratulations



Dina celebrates high school graduation

Dina Hiyad Al-Qaryouti received congratulations from family and friends after graduating from the Fajr Al-Sabah High School with a GDP of 97.2 percent. Dina said that she plans to study dentistry in college.



SPEND MORE TIME WITH FAMILY THIS RAMADAN hot air onto food from multiple air-vents. approximately 2250 watts, which also amadan is among those times of the be switched off which allows for the maxi-

year where you are likely to have friends and family over more often than the norm. As you set about to prepare delicious iftars, not only can you drastically reduce time spent in the kitchen but also cook healthy. With the HotBlast(tm) Smart Convection Microwave Oven, you can cook food up to 47 percent faster than conventional ovens, all the while using significant-

The HotBlast(tm) Microwave Oven is both fast and powerful, allowing for accelerated cooking times that is mainly attained by a downwards blast of powerful This hot and powerful air is driven by a fan with a 154mm diameter, 1.6 times larger than the ones in conventional ovens. Every inch of space is maximized due to the Grande Table, which allows users to cook on a much larger scale. Compared to a conventional oven, the internal dimensions are larger and the 380mm inner plate is wider, creating an astonishing 35 liter capacity. That means that roasting an entire chicken is a breeze. Due to its cavernous size, it is now easy to cook larger plates of food, even a family-sized pizza. In addition, the rotating function of the inner plate can also mum utilization of every inch of space in the microwave and facilitates the use of

any shape of dish. The HotBlast(tm) and Slim Fry features circulate warm air through the oven, enveloping the food and keeping its flavor, quality and crispiness. The MW8000J even features an inbuilt fermentation function that allows for easy preparation of other iftar essentials such as yoghurt and dough for bread. When it comes down to grilling your favorite dishes, it has all it takes to do the job. The PowerGrill Duo's super wide heater delivers an increased power of

allows for consistent heat distribution and even grilling.

The MW8000J is very easy to clean which of course prevents germs and other harmful bacteria after use. The durable Ceramic coating Inside has a scratch-free surface and does not shed color over time, able to withstand high temperature and residues from oil and grease. The insides of the MW8000J are both anti-bacterial and rust resistant.





NBK family recently visited both NBK Children Hospital and Ibn Sina Hospital to share the Girgian celebration's joy with hospitalized children.

TV PROGRAMS

BRAND

HOUGH

Kuwait Zimes

03:05 Knightriders 05:30 The Magnificent Seven Ride! 07:10 Natural Causes 08:40 Hercules 10:20 Kid Galahad

11:55 Thunderbirds Are Go 13:30 It Runs In The Family 14:55 Earthbound

16:30 Kiss Before Dying, A 18:00 Mannequin 19:30 The Tender 21:00 Of Mice And Men

22:50 Rolling Thunder Silent Witness 02:00 Behind Enemy Lines

03:25 Cheetah: Race To Rule 04:15 Gator Boys 05:02 Treehouse Masters

05:49 Dog TV 06:36 Call Of The Wildman 07:00 Call Of The Wildman 07:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101 08:15 Dog TV

09:10 Treehouse Masters 10:05 Tanked 11:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101 11:55 Bondi Vet

12:50 Dog TV 13:45 Gator Boys 14:40 Treehouse Masters 15:35 Tanked 16:30 Cheetah: Race To Rule 17:25 River Monsters 18:20 Restoration Wild

19:15 Tanked 20:10 Natural World 21:05 Treehouse Masters 22:00 Restoration Wild 22:55 Gator Boys

23:50 River Monsters 00:45 Man-Eating Super Squid 01:40 Restoration Wild 02:35 Tanked



03:00 Hungry Investors 03:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video

04:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 05:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 06:20 Nathan For You

06:50 Nathan For You 07:15 Tosh.0 07:40 Tosh.0 08:05 Lip Sync Battle 08:30 Lip Sync Battle

08:55 Hungry Investors 09:45 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 10:35 Catch A Contractor

11:00 Catch A Contractor 11:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 12:15 Nathan For You 12:40 Nathan For You 13:05 Tosh.0

13:30 Tosh.0 13:55 Lip Sync Battle 14:20 Lip Sync Battle 14:45 Hungry Investors

15:35 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 16:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol

17:25 Hungry Investors 18:15 Nathan For You 18:39 Nathan For You 19:03 Tosh.0

Catch A Contractor 20:13 Lip Sync Battle 20:37 Lip Sync Battle 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor

21:30 Hungry Investors 22:30 Catch A Contractor 23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

00:00 Disorderly Conduct: Video

01:10 Running Wild With Bear

02:00 Deadliest Job Interview 02:50 Dive Wars Australia

03:00 Untamed & Uncut 03:50 Marooned With Ed Stafford 04:40 How It's Made 05:05 How It's Made 05:30 Morgan Freeman's Through

The Wormhole 06:20 Mythbusters 07:00 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild 07:25 Adventure 8: Zoo Games

07:50 Too Cute! 08:40 You Have Been Warned 09:30 How It's Made 09:55 How It's Made 10:20 Mythbusters 11:10 Bondi Vet

12:50 How It's Made 13:15 How It's Made 13:40 Marooned With Ed Stafford 14:30 Dirty Jobs Mythbusters 16:10 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild

12:00 Too Cute!

16:35 Adventure 8: Zoo Games 17:00 Lost & Found With Mike & 17:50 Driving Me Crazy 18:40 You Have Been Warned 19:30 Mythbusters

20:20 How It's Made 20:45 How It's Made 21:10 Lost & Found With Mike & 22:00 Driving Me Crazy

22:50 Untamed & Uncut 23:40 Morgan Freeman's Through The Wormhole 00:30 Mythbusters 01:20 Lost & Found With Mike &

02:10 Driving Me Crazy

NVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

03:00 Discovery ID 09:00 Discovery ID 15:00 Discovery ID 21:00 Discovery ID Discovery ID Xtra 03:00 Obsession: Dark Desires

03:48 Breaking Point 04:36 Deadly Affairs 05:24 California Investigator 05:49 California Investigator Tabloid 07:00 Deadly Affairs 07:50 I Almost Got Away With It

California Investigator California Investigator 09:30 On The Case With Paula 10:20 Tabloid 11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron

12:00 Deadly Affairs 12:50 I Almost Got Away With It California Investigator 14:05 California Investigator 14:30 On The Case With Paula

15:20 Tabloid 16:10 True Crime With Aphrodite 17:00 Deadly Affairs 17:50 On The Case With Paula

18:40 California Investigator 19:05 California Investigator I Almost Got Away With It

20:20 Tabloid California Investigator 22:00 Shadow Of Doubt 22:50 Murder Among Friends

23:40 Disappeared 00:30 Breaking Point 01:20 Shadow Of Doubt 02:10 Murder Among Friends

03:00 Mighty Ships



03:15 The Hive 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

04:10 Hank Zipzer 04:35 Binny And The Ghost 05:00 Violetta 05:45 The Hive 05:50 Mouk 06:00 Hank Zipzer

06:25 Sofia The First 06:50 Gravity Falls 07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir

08:05 Shake It Up 08:30 Shake It Up 08:55 Hannah Montana 09:20 Hannah Montana 09:45 Wizards Of Waverly Place 10:10 Wizards Of Waverly Place 10:35 Good Luck Charlie

11:25 Jessie 11:50 Jessie 12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 12:45 Hank Zipzer

11:00 Good Luck Charlie

13:10 Austin & Ally 13:35 Austin & Ally 14:00 Liv And Maddie 14:25 Liv And Maddie 14:50 Dog With A Blog15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse 15:20 Gravity Falls

15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 16:10 Violetta 17:00 Backstage 17:25 Austin & Ally 17:50 Jessie 18:15 Best Friends Whenever

18:40 Girl Meets World Evermoor Chronicles 19:30 Liv And Maddie 19:55 Liv And Maddie 20:20 Backstage 20:45 Good Luck Charlie

21:10 H2O: Just Add Water 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water 22:00 Binny And The Ghost 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

23:10 Hank Zipzer 23:35 Binny And The Ghost 00:00 Violetta 00:45 The Hive 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01:40 Hank Zipzer 02:05 Binny And The Ghost 02:30 Violetta



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster 03:20 Calimero 03:35 Zou 03:45 Loopdidoo 04:00 Art Attack 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster

04:35 Calimero 04:50 Zou 05:00 Loopdidoo 05:15 Art Attack

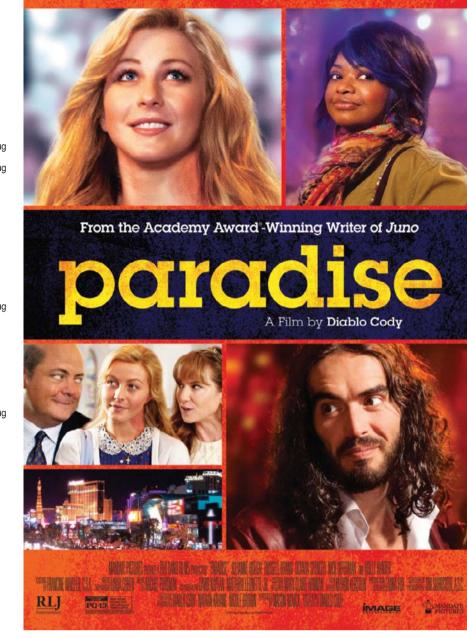
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster 05:50 Calimero 06:00 Zou 06:35 Art Attack

07:00 The Hive 07:10 Zou 07:25 Loopdidoo

07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 08:05 Sofia The First 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow 08:45 PJ Masks 09:10 The Lion Guard 09:35 Doc McStuffins

10:25 Unbungalievable 10:30 Goldie & Bear

DISCOVERY 10:00 Sofia The First



SPENCER OFFERMAN

PARADISE ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

Mysteries Solved 05:20 Ancient Aliens

01:15 Loopdidoo 01:30 Art Attack 02:05 Calimero 02:20 Zou 02:30 Loopdidoo 02:45 Art Attack

06:00 Boyster 06:10 Super Matrak

06:35 Super Matrak 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 07:25 K.C. Undercover 07:50 Supa Strikas 08:15 Annedroids

08:40 Lab Rats 09:10 Kirby Buckets 09:35 Pokemon Series Xy: Kalos

10:00 Rocket Monkeys 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man 10:50 Boyster 11:20 Boyster 11:45 Pair Of Kings 12:10 Pair Of Kings 12:35 Lab Rats

13:00 Lab Rats 13:30 Phineas And Ferb 13:55 Phineas And Ferb 14:20 Kickin' It 14:45 Kickin' It 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse15:15 Supa Strikas

15:40 Supa Strikas 16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 16:30 Kirby Buckets 16:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty

Much Everything 17:25 K.C. Undercover 17:50 Supa Strikas 18:15 Lab Rats 18:40 K.C. Undercover 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse

19:10 Annedroids 19:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 20:00 Kirby Buckets 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything

20:55 K.C. Undercover 21:20 Pickle And Peanut 21:45 Lab Rats 22:10 Mighty Med

22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

tood

03:00 Diners. Drive-Ins And Dives 03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 04:00 Man Fire Food 04:30 Man Fire Food 05:00 Chopped 06:00 Guy's Grocery Games

07:30 Man Fire Food 08:00 Chopped 09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics

07:00 Man Fire Food

Basics 10:00 The Kitchen 11:00 The Pioneer Woman 11:30 The Pioneer Woman

Special 13:30 Grandma's Secret Cookbook Special

15:30 Man Fire Food 16:00 Chopped 17:00 The Kitchen 18:00 The Pioneer Woman 18:30 The Pioneer Woman 19:00 Chopped 20:00 Iron Chef America

21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 22:00 Man v Food 22:30 Man v Food 23:00 Kitchen Inferno

04:30 The Universe: Ancient

21:25 Sunday Night At The Palladium 22:20 Coronation Street

22:50 Emmerdale

23:15 Mr Selfridge

00:10 Catchphrase

Of Dogs 01:05 Emmerdale

01:30 Coach Trip

02:00 Coronation Street

00:40 Paul O'Grady: For The Love

02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show

people III

NAT GEO

03:05 American Food Battle

03:30 American Food Battle

06:10 Ancient Discoveries 07:00 Dogfights 08:00 Cities Of The Underworld 09:00 America: The Story Of The

10:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded 11:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 12:00 Ancient Aliens 13:00 Dogfights 14:00 Cities Of The Underworld

15:00 America: The Story Of The 16:00 Brad Meltzer's Decoded 17:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved 18:00 Ancient Aliens

19:00 Dogfights20:00 Cities Of The Underworld 03:55 Lucky Chow 04:20 Carnival Eats 21:00 America: The Story Of The 04:45 Carnival Eats 05:10 Great Escapes 22:00 In Search Of Aliens 05:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia

23:00 Ancient Aliens 00:00 Ancient Aliens 06:00 Maximum Foodie 01:00 Dogfights 06:25 David Rocco's Dolce India 02:00 Cities Of The Underworld 06:50 This Is Brazil 02:50 America: The Story Of The

03:40 American Restoration

04:05 American Restoration

06:50 Big Rig Bounty Hunters

07:15 Big Rig Bounty Hunters 07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island 08:30 Shipping Wars

09:20 American Restoration

Fifth Gear

Ultimate Wheels

11:25 The Curse Of Oak Island 12:15 American Pickers

Storage Wars Texas

16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island 17:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters

Swamp People

22:40 Pirate Treasure Of The

Big Rig Bounty Hunters 18:30 The Curse Of Oak Island 19:20 American Pickers

13:30 Storage Wars Texas13:55 Storage Wars Miami

Storage Wars

14:45 American Pickers 15:35 Counting Cars

16:00 Ax Men`

20:10 Pawn Stars

20:35 Pawn Stars

Knights Templar

03:25 Lewis 04:20 Doc Martin 05:15 Pick Me!

06:10 Mr Selfridge

07:05 Catchphrase

13:25 Emmerdale

13:50 Coach Trip

15:35 Catchphrase

Coronation Street

14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show

Of Dogs

08:00 Lewis

00:20 Swamp People 01:10 Duck Dynasty

Duck Dynasty

02:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters

02:25 Big Rig Bounty Hunters

CHOICE

07:35 Paul O'Grady: For The Love

American Restoration

04:30 Pawn Stars

06:00 Ax Men

09:45

07:40 Meat v Veg 08:05 Fearless Chef 08:55 American Food Battle 09:20 American Food Battle 09:45 Lucky Chow 10:10 Carnival Eats 10:35 Carnival Fats HISTORY.

11:00 Great Escapes 11:25 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia 11:50 Maximum Foodie The Curse Of Oak Island

12:15 David Rocco's Dolce India 12:40 This Is Brazil 13:35 Street Food Around The

14:00 Fearless Chef 14:55 My Sri Lanka With Peter

19:30 American Food Battle 20:00 Lucky Chow 20:25 Carnival Eats 20:50 Carnival Eats 21:15 Great Escapes 21:40 Baking Good, Baking Bad 22:05 Maximum Foodie 22:30 David Rocco's Dolce India

17:40 Baking Good, Baking Bad 18:10 Maximum Foodie

18:35 David Rocco's Dolce India

19:05 My Sri Lanka With Peter

15:25 American Food Battle 15:50 Lucky Chow

16:20 Carnival Eats

16:45 Carnival Eats

Kuruvita

17:15 Great Escapes

HUNTER

22:55 This Is Brazil 23:45 Street Food Around The 00:10 Fearless Chef 01:00 World's Best Chefs 01:25 Miguel's Feasts 01:50 Mayerick Chef

02:15 Dream Cruises

NAT GEO 03:45 Swamp Men

04:40 Secret Life Of Predators 05:35 Night Stalkers 06:30 Going Wild 07:25 Swamp Men 08:20 Secret Life Of Predators 09:15 Super Predators 10:10 Man V. Cheetah

11:05 Lion Ranger 12:00 Monster Fish 12:55 Ultimate Predator 13:50 Man V. Monster 14:45 Swamp Men 15:40 Secret Life Of Predators 16:35 Mission Critical 17:30 Natural Born Monsters

18:25 Lion Ranger 19:20 Swamp Men 20:10 Secret Life Of Predators 21:00 Mission Critical 21:50 Natural Born Monsters 22:40 Lion Ranger 23:30 Monster Fish 00:20 Ultimate Predator

> 01:10 Man V. Monster 02:00 Africa's Creative Killers 02:50 1000 Days For The Planet NATIONAL **GEOGRAPHIC**

CHANNEL LID

03:50 The Great Human Race 04:45 Shark Men 05:40 Hunter Hunted 06:35 Seconds From Disaster Street Genius 07:55 Street Genius 08:25 Maneater Manhunt 09:20 Shark Men

10:15 Desperate Hours 10:40 Desperate Hours Underworld, Inc. 12:05 Locked Up Abroad 13:00 Swamp Men 14:00 Test Your Brain

15:00 Monster Fish 16:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge 17:00 Underworld, Inc. 18:00 Locked Up Abroad

19:00 Monster Fish 20:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge 20:50 Underworld, Inc. 21:40 Locked Up Abroad 22:30 Monster Fish Hunter Hunted

00:10 Outsiders: Living Off The Edae 01:00 Best Of Hard Time 02:00 Locked Up Abroad

nickelodeon HD 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

03:48 Henry Danger 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn The Haunted Hathaways 05:00 Max & Shred 05:24 Henry Danger 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 07:48 Winx Club 08:12 Winx Club 08:36 Get Blake 09:00 Get Blake 09:24 Rabbids Invasion

09:48 Henry Danger

10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways

11:00 Winx Club 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants

12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 13:00 Harvey Beaks 13:24 The Loud House

13:48 Get Blake 14:12 Rabbids Invasion 14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School 15:00 Game Shakers

15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 16:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 17:00 Get Blake

17:24 Harvey Beaks 17:48 The Loud House 18:12 Henry Danger18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 19:00 100 Things To Do Before

High School 19:24 Game Shakers 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 21:24 Breadwinners 21:48 Breadwinners 22:12 Sanjay And Craig

22:36 Sanjay And Craig 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants SpongeBob SquarePants 23:48 Henry Danger 00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 00:36 Max & Shred 01:00 The Haunted Hathaways

01:24 Sanjay And Craig 01:48 Sanjay And Craig 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants

OM MOVIES HD COMEDY 04:00 Man Of The House

06:00 Spy Hard 08:00 What About Bob? 10:00 Bottle Rocket 12:00 Man Of The House 14:00 Spy Hard 16:00 What About Bob? 18:00 My Father The Hero 20:00 Deliver Us From Eva

00:00 What About Bob?

22:00 Blended

02:00 Deliver Us From Eva **MOVIES**

03:30 Ed Wood 05:45 Memories Paradise 09:30 Monkey Kingdom 11:00 Memories 12:45 Ed Wood 15:00 Dr. Strangelove 17:00 Monkey Kingdom 19:00 I Will Follow You Into The

21:00 Mandela: Long Walk To

Freedom 23:30 Little White Lies 02:15 Monkey Kingdom

ON MOVIES HD 03:30 Hot Pursuit 05:15 4 Minute Mile 07:00 Life Of A King

09:00 Hot Pursuit 11:00 Big Game 13:00 Metallica: Through The

15:00 The Last 5 Years 17:00 The Song 19:00 The Age Of Adaline

21:00 If I Stav 23:00 The Water Diviner 01:00 Out Of The Dark

OM MOVIES HID **FAMILY**

03:00 College Road Trip 05:00 Pocahontas 07:00 First Kid 09:00 The Shaggy Dog

11:00 Mars Needs Moms 13:00 Inspector Gadget 15:00 The Pacifier 17:00 Monsters Inc 19:00 High School Musical 3:

Senior Year 21:00 Race To Witch Mountain 23:00 The Pacifier 01:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year



THE SONG OSN MOVIES HD





04:30

Property Wars How Do They Do It? 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars 06:00 Yukon Men 06:50 Wheeler Dealers Fast N' Loud 08:30 Dukes Of Haggle 08:55 Storage Wars Canada Property Wars

09:45 How Do They Do It? 10:10 How It's Made: Dream Cars 10:35 Gold Rush (Season 6 Specials) 11:25 Rebel Gold 12:15 Outback Truckers 13:05 Dukes Of Haggle 13:30 Storage Wars Canada

Property Wars

14:20 Yukon Men 15:10 Wheeler Dealers Fast N' Loud 16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars 17:15 How Do They Do It? 17:40 Running Wild With Bear Grylls 18:30 Deadliest Job Interview

Bear Grylls: Mission Survive 20:10 Storage Wars Canada Property Wars 20:35 21:00 Running Wild With Bear Grylls 21:50 Deadliest Job Interview Dive Wars Australia

23:30 Fast N' Loud

00:20 Wheeler Dealers

BLENDED ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY 03:48 How The Universe Works 04:36 Mythbusters 05:24 Curiosity: Sun Storm 06:12 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

07:00 Mythbusters 07:50 Food Factory USA 08:15 How It's Made 08:40 Mighty Ships 09:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 10:20 Curiosity: Sun Storm

11:10 How The Universe Works 12:00 Mighty Ships 12:50 Mythbusters 13:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 14:30 Food Factory USA 14:55 How It's Made 15:20 Curiosity: Sun Storm 16:10 Mighty Ships

17:00 What Could Possibly Go 17:50 How The Universe Works 18:40 Mythbusters 19:30 Food Factory USA
19:55 Food Factory USA
20:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 21:10 How The Universe Works

22:00 Food Factory USA 22:25 Food Factory USA 22:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? Food Factory USA 00:05 Mythbusters Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 01:45 How It's Made

02:10 Food Factory USA

Food Factory USA

11:00 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates** 11:25 The Lion Guard 11:50 Doc McStuffins

12:55 Unbungalievable Sofia The First 13:00 13:25 Doc McStuffins 13:50 Miles From Tomorrow The Lion Guard 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse15:10 Doc McStuffins

15:35 Jake And The Never Land

12:45 The Hive

16:00 Sofia The First 16:25 Jungle Cubs 16:50 Aladdin The Lion Guard 17:15 Goldie & Bear 18:05 Miles From Tomorrow 18:30 Sofia The First PJ Masks 19:25 Unbungalievable 19:30 The Lion Guard

20:00 Goldie & Bear

20:30 Sofia The First

21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 21:25 PJ Masks 21:50 Jungle Cubs 22:20 Aladdin 22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons 22:50 Zou 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster 23:20 Calimero

23:35 Zou 23:50 Loopdidoo 00:05 Art Attack 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster 00:45 Calimero

09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To 12:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 12:00 Chopped 13:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook

> 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 15:00 Man Fire Food

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 01:30 Diners. Drive-Ins And Dives 02:00 Man v Food 02:30 Man v Food

03:40 Brad Meltzer's Decoded

08:55 Doc Martin 09:50 The Jonathan Ross Show 10:40 Pick Me! 11:35 Catchphrase 12:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love 21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Of Dogs 12:30 Mr Selfridge

> 16:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs 16:30 Doctor Thorne 17:25 Sunday Night At The Palladium 18:20 Emmerdale 18:45 Coach Trip

> > 19:35 Catchphrase 20:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs 20:30 Doctor Thorne

19:10 Coronation Street

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2016



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (16/06/2016 TO 22/06/2016) **SHARQIA-1** THE CALL UP 12:05 AM THE CALL UP 9:30 PM **AVENUES-11** THE CALL UP 11:30 PM WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D) MARINA-2 9:30 PM THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:00 PM THU+FRI+SAT SHARQIA-2 WARCRAFT 12:15 AM CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR (Atmos 2D) 12:05 AM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 9:45 PM THU+FRI+SAT WARCRAFT 11:45 PM MARINA-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 9:30 PM 360°-1 **SHARQIA-3** HASAN WA BOQLOZ 11:45 PM THE CALL UP 10:30 PM HASAN WA BOQLOZ 10:00 PM THE CALL UP 12:30 AM THE ASIAN CONNECTION 12:05 AM **AVENUES-1** 360°-2 ELLY JAY AHSAN (Arabic) **MUHALAB-1** 10:00 PM PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND 10:00 PM THE CALL UP 10:00 PM PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND 12:15 AM THE ASIAN CONNECTION 12:15 AM THE CALL UP 12:05 AM **AVENUES-3** 360°-3 **MUHALAB-2** KAMMATTI PAADAM- Malayalam 9:45 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 9:45 PM CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 9:45 PM THE CALL UP 1:00 AM CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 11:45 PM GENTLEMAN-Telugu 9:45 PM THE ASIAN CONNECTION 12:45 AM **AVENUES-4** AL-KOUT.1 THE CALL UP 10:30 PM WARCRAFT 9:30 PM **MUHALAB-3** THE CALL UP NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES 12:05 AM 12:30 AM THE JUNGLE BOOK 9:30 PM WARCRAFT 11:45 PM **AVENUES-5** AL-KOUT.2 **ROAD GAMES** 9:45 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 10:00 PM WARCRAFT **ROAD GAMES** FANAR-1 11:45 PM 12:15 AM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 9:30 PM THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 PM AL-KOUT.3 **AVENUES-6** THE CALL UP THE JUNGLE BOOK 9:30 PM 10:15 PM MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic THE CALL UP FANAR-2 11:45 PM 12:30 AM THE CALL UP 10:15 PM AL-KOUT.4 THE CALL UP 12:15 AM **AVENUES-7 ROAD GAMES** 10:15 PM ELLY JAY AHSAN (Arabic) 9:45 PM **ROAD GAMES** X-MEN: Apocalypse FANAR-3 12:15 AM 12:05 AM TE3N (Hindi) 9:45 PM **ROAD GAMES** 12:45 AM **AVENUES-8 BAIRAQ-1** NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES 10:00 PM THE CALL UP 9:30 PM FANAR-4 NO SAT THE CALL UP 11:30 PM **ROAD GAMES** 10:00 PM NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES 12:05 AM WARCRAFT 12:05 AM NO SAT **BAIRAQ-2 AVENUES-9** THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:00 PM FANAR-5 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 10:30 PM 12:15 AM Hepta ELLY JAY AHSAN (Arabic) 10:30 PM HASAN WA BOQLOZ 12:30 AM **BAIRAQ-3** NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES 12:30 AM **AVENUES-10** TE3N (Hindi) 9:45 PM THE ASIAN CONNECTION 9:45 PM MARINA-1 THE CALL UP 12:30 AM

URGENT REQUIRED

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Ali Asgar holding passport no.

G7737051 to Ali Asgar

Khedawala. In future to be

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kottakonda Udhiah Kumar holder of Indian Passport No. G1153961 hereby change my name as Kota Udhaya Kumar S/o Kota Krishna Murthy, post K.V Palli Mandal Chitoor District, AP. (C 5187) 19-6-2016

known by new name R/o New Masjid Saify Mohalla Salumber Udaipur Rajasthan India. (C 5186) 15-6-2016

EMERGENCY 112



Business Partner,

Decoument Clearing. Contact Us: 00968-98457638 Email: Info@Eigllcoman.Com



THE CALL UP

9:45 PM

THE CALL UP

Flight Schedule

11:45 PM

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

			_								24.05				
	-	hts on Tuesday 21/6/201		CLX	784	Luxembourg	16:30	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	NIA	251	Alexandria	16:50	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:35
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	562	Amman	16:55	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	680	Muscat	16:55	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	JZR	801	Taif	16:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:50	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	CCE	345	Sohag	17:35	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	KAC	783	Jeddah	03:30	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	RJA	645	Amman	03:55	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00	KNE	536	Jeddah	17:00
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	FDB		Dubai	17:10
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RJA	644	Amman	03:10	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	LMU	5111	Cairo	05:00	NIA	252	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	104	London	19:00	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:05	BAW	156	London	08:25	CLX	713	NBO	18:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:40	CCE	342	Alexandria	18:35
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	JZR	1770	Jeddah	08:40	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	KAC	513	Tehran	09:15	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	619	Doha	09:30	KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	JZR	802	Taif	20:55	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	ALK	229	Colombo	21:13	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:35
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25	IRA	674	Lar	10:40	KAC	353		
MSC	401	Alexandria		KAC				KAC				KAC	353 343	BLR	20:55
			12:30		172	Frankfurt	21:50		501	Beirut	11:00			Chennai	20:55
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10	KAC	561	Amman	11:20	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	514	Tehran	13:45	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15	KAC	679	Muscat	11:25	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:05	PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00	MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	KAC	782	Jeddah	22:50	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10	THY	764	Istanbul	22:55	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
JZR	1771	Jeddah	14:15	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10	KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	JAD	301	Amman	23:45	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00					SAW	702	Damascus	13:35	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10		Departure Fl	ights on Tuesday 21/6/2016	5	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	Airline	s Flt	Route	Time	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	BBC	144	Chittagong/Dhaka	00:10	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00	NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
RJA	640	Amman	16:00	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KNE	535	Jeddah	16:15	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:10	PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
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CROSSWORD 1291

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ACROSS

- 1. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 4. Headed or intending to head in a certain
- 12. (computer science) Protocol that allows users to copy files between their local system and any system they can reach on the
- 15. A passage with access only at one end.
- 16. A tavern where ale is sold.
- 17. Fish eggs or egg-filled ovary.
- 18. At or constituting a border or edge. 20. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in
- favor of a person or cause). 21. A historical region in central and northern
- Yugoslavia. 23. A unit of radiation exposure.
- 25. French writer who generalized surrealism to literature (1897-1982).
- 26. Cook in liquid.
- 28. The second largest continent. 30. A unit of magnetomotive force equal to
- 0.7958 ampere-turns. 31. A doctor's degree in religion.
- 34. Raspberry native to eastern North America
- having black thimble-shaped fruit. 39. A white soft metallic element that tarnish-
- es readily 40. Hungarian hunting dog resembling the Weimaraner but having a rich deep red
- 43. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 44. Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).
- 46. Stiff coarse fiber from the outer husk of a coconut.
- 47. The chief solid component of mammalian urine.
- 48. A brittle silver-white metalloid element that is related to selenium and sulfur
- 51. A light springing movement upwards or forwards.
- 53. Being ten more than one hundred thirty.
- 54. Third son of Elizabeth II (born in 1964). 58. A large fleet.
- 60. Harmony of people's opinions or actions or
- characters.
- 64. Largest known toad species. 66. A woman hired to suckle a child of some-
- 69. A river of southwestern Africa that rises in central Angola and flows east and then north (forming part of the border
- between Angola and Congo) and continuing northwest through Congo to empty into the Congo River on the border between Congo and Republic of the Congo
- 70. Distinctive and stylish elegance.
- 72. A great raja. 74. One of the most common of the five major
- classes of immunoglobulins.
- 77. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
- 78. The 19th letter of the Greek alphabet. 79. Large black gibbon of Sumatra having the
- 2nd and 3rd toes partially united by a
- 80. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

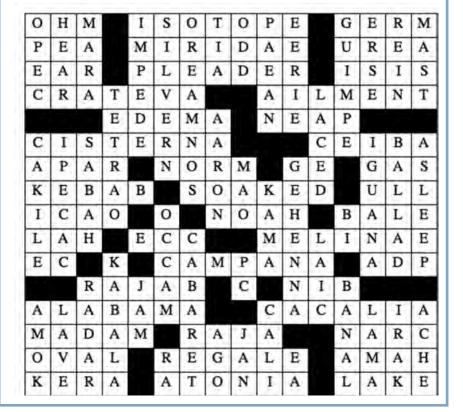
- 1. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
- 2. (British) A simple board game in which players move counters according to the throw

- 3. The mathematics of generalized arithmetical operations.
- 4. An official prosecutor for a judicial district. 5. Resembling or characteristic of or appropriate to an elegy.
- 6. United States tennis player (born in
- Yugoslavia in 1973).
- 7. A feudal lord or baron in Scotland.
- 8. An electrically charged particle. 9. The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 10. An analytic or interpretive literary composition.
- 11. French philosopher and critic.
- 12. Goddess of the heavens and married love. 13. Japanese army officer who initiated the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and who assumed dictatorial control of Japan dur-
- ing World War II. 14. A hymn of praise (especially one sung in ancient Greece to invoke or thank a deity).
- 19. Make richer. 22. An undergarment worn by women to sup-
- port their breasts. 24. The heading or position of a vessel relative
- to the trim of its sails.
- 27. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity. 29. Having a gradual increase in width.
- 32. Large genus of plants found in damp woodlands and bogs and ditches or at
- water margins. 33. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
- 35. The eleventh month of the civil year. 36. A form of entertainment that enacts a story by a sequence of images giving the illu-
- sion of continuous movement. 37. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the
- 38. A lawman concerned with narcotics viola-
- tions. 41. French novelist and critic.
- 42. The function or position properly or customarily occupied or served by another.
- 45. Marked by firm determination or resolution.
- 49. (Old Testament) The wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac.
- 50. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
- 52. (India) Absolutely first class and genuine.
- 55. A town in north central Wisconsin. 56. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion. 57. Scarabaeid beetle considered divine by
- ancient Egyptians.
- 59. Indigo bush.
- 61. Port city on southern Honshu on Osaka Bay. 62. The seventh month of the Moslem calen-
- 63. English aristocrat who was the first wife of
- Prince Charles.
- 65. Mentally or physically infirm with age.
- 67. Type genus of the Amiidae. 68. German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-
- 1968). 71. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 73. An ugly evil-looking old woman.

sandth of a kilogram.

- 75. An honorary degree in science.
- 76. A metric unit of weight equal to one thou-

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

move and you should ask their opinions.

This is a time of good fortune when things open up naturally. Situations are almost magically created just for you and it is easy to see which path is the one to take. Circumstances tend to bend to your will and things have a way of working out smoothly. There are real opportunities to complete and work out difficulties and projects that require both long-term effort and a high degree of discipline. There is a greater focus on family life-parents, children, relatives and the whole domestic scene-through this coming weekend. On a somewhat broader scale, you are likely to find that houses and

other real property take on greater significance. The whole family may have ideas of a



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your outward seriousness and no-nonsense approach to things are obvious to all at this time. This deliberate sense of responsibility comes across in the way you relate to other people professionally. You have a side to your personality that is very creative and lighthearted, but today you aim to solve problems and get down to the essentials. Today, there is the possibility of new visions or sudden insights into some long-term difficulty. Breakthroughs are possible. Continual discovery, persistent search and continual change and transformation keep you on the move. Others appreciate your hard work. Enjoy the connection between old friends this evening. There is much light conversation, laughter and joke telling to be enjoyed.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have the mind of a lawyer, always able to size up a problem and come up with a solution. Using your mind to negotiate obstacles and handle dilemmas is a great talent and this problem-solving seems to be where your energies are focused. You have an innate ability to guide and lead others. You could be very much in demand as a counselor. This is also a good time to let others know your plans-some are willing to lend a helping hand. You could even be the one to discover ways to change a most difficult situation into a positive one, for example, changing attitudes, making choices and including others in the decision process. You feel great in familiar surroundings this evening as you celebrate your special day-enjoy!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a very good day for job-related events. You may shine in your particular job. You could represent or speak for your company or talk about your skills. Looking forward to a long weekend away from home, you will be confirming and planning the final details in a couple of days. You could be taking a day vacation or it may mean you are involved with a company project, on company time. There is a love of all children and animals and it is in these things you may share other parts of your attention. This may mean some political responsibilities or opportunities for you now. Tonight is a wonderful time to participate in outside activities with friends or loved ones-just simply, relax! Music is for relaxing this evening-put your feet up.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your unique and unusual qualities are brought out today as someone younger than you seeks advice. You could come up with solutions or a new understanding that will help your progress in life. You may not want center stage at this time but you certainly are in the mood to format some new plans for yourself. There is a feeling of importance as you realize how much you impact another person's life. You feel good about your work position. Open your mind to some exciting new possibilities. Expect delays later this afternoon-pace yourself. This evening your friends may want you to join them in some fun activity. You may be feeling a little lazy after such a busy day but if you go with your friends, you will be glad you did.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find yourself having difficulty with concentration efforts today. You have been able to accomplish quite a lot in the workplace lately. Perhaps it is time to find better ways to thin out the responsibilities-or at least, eliminate the many steps that it takes you to achieve good results. Pace yourself. Enjoy your friends after work today, perhaps a meal together or a time of group sports. It just may be the best time to listen to others and gain some new energies as well as new insights. Stability and permanence satisfy a deep emotional need. Music is likely to play a more important role for you than usual-perhaps a play or concert would be invigorating this evening. A feeling of being at peace and stable on the emotional level is present at this time.

WORD SEARCH

Musical Movies 2 - Word Search Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

BKSJOKLAHOMASGSRH YGREASEYTOKGITCMY J B Y I E M G O N H A P A I B ELFNLAIIMTERRIE ZITUCHKTEMYZMAN AAPLCINCOFGPYIEWO LNXHOONAUONGANAL RJFCTTSIYPSIIKQHA LOLWSBRHPFGESWJEM CKSLRIGMAERDSUY DYLIOKNYXIQCROJLS KKYSTNSAHKEICBG NAJYTIMALACZAKU ALLTHATJAZZEMAFHB

ALL THAT JAZZ **BLUE HAWAII BUGSY MALONE** CALAMITY JANE CARMEN CHICAGO DREAMGIRLS FAME

FUNNY FACE GIGI GREASE HAIR HIGH SOCIETY JAILHOUSE ROCK **MARY POPPINS** MY FAIR LADY

OKLAHOMA PAL JOEY SILK STOCKINGS STATE FAIR **SWING TIME** TOMMY YENTL

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Being prepared by being organized may mean your success now. This is a time when you can expect a little boost, some extra support or recognition from your peers for your talents. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others. The support you need is available for whatever you need to do. Investment opportunities are available. You may find it silly to ask questions in this area, particularly if it is a personal investment, but you will be wise to collect as much information as possible. You are able to sense and feel in the more abstract mental areas and to bring far-out ideas down to earth. Your many friends may fight to gain your attention-careful, others mimic your behavior. You are a leader and bring positive insights to all.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Feelings are something you express with ease now and you appreciate others doing the same, as long as emotions do not get too intense. Emotional drama is avoided. You may be reminded of your various responsibilities today, in order to keep the mind and emotions on the professional pathway! This is the time to get down to the nitty-gritty and take care of some business you have postponed before today. Obligations from home may come to your attention later today. A meeting with someone older or in authority is in the works and you may be a bit tense about it. Never fear, all will work to your benefit. Your appetite for action is probably well known and well noted. Sports, outdoor activities and everything physical are high on your list this afternoon.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are very competitive-even pushy-when it comes to partners and other people today. Take some time to laugh at the intensity and find a fun way to look at the situation. Some of the competition today may not have anything to do with where you really want to go. You have a great social drive and love to work in a group or with close friends. Your mind runs to domestic issues; home and family are always on your mind. This trait could work against your career interests, especially if your job requires managerial and organizational skills. Perhaps a home business or mail order business would be good choices for you. This evening is a great time to be with friends, perhaps to

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

share an outdoor barbecue or homemade ice cream.

Your positive outlook this day lets you get right to the point. Careful-you may have little patience with those who are not willing to help themselves. You will be introduced to people in an environment you are not familiar with, but you have plenty of enthusiasm and you warm up to things and people quickly. You have an inner self-confidence that burns with its own light. With all of this emotional energy, you could speak very well. You have a lot of mental drive. This evening you may find that you are in very different surroundings, perhaps an art show, play or museum. Your taste in art and appreciation of creative efforts of people are heightened. There are plenty of ideas for your own creative



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You get along well with older people, especially those in authority. It is easy for you to convey yourself to others and you make a good appearance. You find it easy to relate with just about anyone. You have great confidence and people respect you in an honorable way. You are a great doer and others appreciate being able to mentor under you. You are a good team player. You express yourself deliberately and do not waste your words. You have a natural sense of organization and come across as disciplined and careful, perhaps a little too sober. Now you will begin to show off your talents. Opportunities will present themselves and you will be able to make that outward push and ride the crest of the wave into fame and fortune. A time of progress.

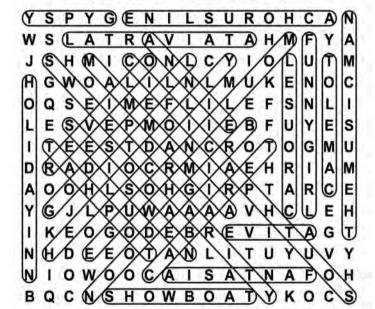


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may have difficulty letting go of some sensitive information today. Your no-nonsense, practical approach makes subjects like the unity of life, ideals and dreamy stuff hard for you to take. However, your responsibilities and your goals are very important to you and you methodically go about putting them into a certainty. Progress is evident as you ignore the enormity of any one project to move forward one step at a time. This afternoon may be the time you will want to reschedule an appointment; however, it may be better to keep on schedule. Personal difficulties may arise as a test, not necessarily from these people but from a higher place. Sometimes difficulties can be worked through and then forgotten quickly.

Yesterday Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles Musical Movies 1 - Solution



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Yesterday's Solution

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Summer Word Search BEACH JUNE SUMMER SWIMSUIT JULY SUNNY SUNSCREEN BUGS HOT AUGUST VACATION POOL BASEBALL SUNGLASSES LEMONADE

Black Forest, Germany

he Black Forest is a large forested mountain range in the state of Baden-Wirttemberg in southwestern Germany. It is bounded by the Rhine valley to the west and south. Its highest peak is the Feldberg with an elevation of 1,493 meters. The region is almost rectangular in shape with a length of 160 km and breadth of up to 60 km.

Geography

The Black Forest stretches from the High Rhine in the south to the Kraichgau in the north. In the west it is bounded by the Upper Rhine Plain in the east it transitions to the G?u, Baar and hill country west of the Klettgau. The Black Forest is the highest part of the South German Scarplands and much of it is densely wooded. It is composed of rocks of the crystalline basement and Bunter Sandstone and its natural boundary with the surrounding landscapes is formed by the emergence of muschelkalk, which is absent from the Black Forest bedrock.

Thanks to the fertility of the soil which is dependent on the underlying rock, this line is both a vegetation boundary as well as the border between the Altsiedel land (old settlement land) and the Black Forest, which was not permanently settled until the High Middle Ages. From north to south the Black Forest extends for over 150 kilometers, attaining a width of up to 50 kilometers in the south, and up to 30 kilometers in the north. Tectonically the range forms a lifted fault block, which rises prominently in the west from the Upper Rhine Plain, whilst seen from the east it has the appearance of a heavily forested plateau.

Tourism

The main industry of the Black Forest is tourism. Black Forest Tourism assesses there are around 140,000 direct full-time jobs in the tourist sector and around 34.8 million tourist overnight stays in 2009. In spring, summer and autumn extensive hiking and cycle way networks enable various target groups to use the natural region. Winter sports include both downhill and Nordic skiing for which there are numerous facilities.



The Black Forest has a great number of very varied trails; some of pan-regional significance. The European long-distance path E1 crosses the Black Forest following the routes of some of the local long-distance paths. Their framework is a network of long distance paths with main routes and side branches, many of which were laid out in the early 20th century by the Black Forest Club. The best known of these is the challenging West Way with its many steep inclines.

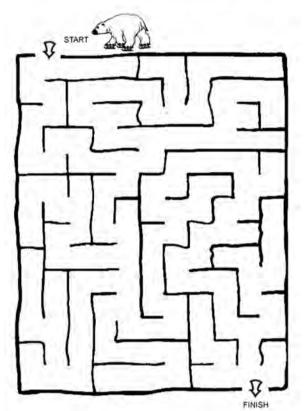
After 1950, circular walks were constructed to meet the changing demand, initially from the relatively dense railway network and, later, mainly from locally established hiking car parks. Currently, special, more experience-oriented themed paths are being laid out, such as the Dornstetten Barefoot Park, the Park of All Senses in Gutach (Black Forest Railway), as well as those designed to bring the walker more directly in contact with nature. Roads and wide forest tracks are thus less often used than hitherto. There are numerous shorter paths suitable for day walks, as well as mountain biking and cross-country skiing trails.

SUDOKU

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Help Becky the bear skate through the maze





O: How do rabbits travel? A: By hareplane.

Q: What is a bunny's motto? A: Don't be mad, be hoppy!

Q: How do you catch a unique rabbit? A: Unique up on it.

Q: How do you know carrots are good for your eyes? A: Because you never see rabbits wearing glasses!

Q: What is a rabbit's favorite dance style? A: Hip-Hop!

Q: Where do rabbits go after their wedding? A: On their bunnymoon!



BOW-TIE PASTA HAIR BARRETTES

Materials

Acrylic paint **Paintbrushes** Uncooked bow-tie pasta Hot-glue gun Plain metal barrettes Clear nail polish

Directions

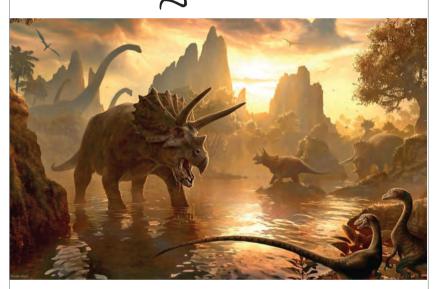
- 1. For each barrette, paint two bow-ties a solid color. Let dry, then add a design such as stripes or dots. Let dry.
- Glue bow ties, side by side, to metal barrette clip. Apply clear nail polish to top side of bow ties to

help prevent paint from chipping.

Color me!



Did you know ..?



nile dinosaurs came a long time before us humans, fossils and modern technology have helped us piece together what dinosaurs may have looked like and even how they might have behaved.

- The word dinosaur comes from the Greek language and means 'terrible lizard'. The word was coined by English paleontologist Richard Owen in 1842 and was meant to refer to Dinosaurs impressive size rather than their scary appearance.
- Dinosaurs ruled the Earth for over 160 million years, from the Triassic period around 230 million years ago through the Jurassic period and until the end of the Cretaceous period around 65 million years ago.
- The time period from 250 million years ago until around 65 million years ago is known as the Mesozoic Era. It is often referred to as the Age of the Dinosaurs because most dinosaurs developed and became extinct during this time.
- It is believed that dinosaurs lived on Earth until around 65 million years ago when a mass extinction occurred.
- Scientists believe that the event leading to the extinction may have been a massive asteroid impact or huge volcanic activity. Events such as these could have blocked out sunlight and significantly changed the Earth's ecology.
- The first dinosaur to be formally named was the Megalosaurus, back in 1824.
- A person who studies dinosaurs is known as a paleontologist. Rather than being carnivores (meat eaters), the largest dinosaurs such as the
- Brachiosaurus and Apatosaurus were actually herbivores (plant eaters). To help fight meat eaters such as the Allosaurus or Spinosaurus, many plant eaters had natural weapons at their disposal. Examples of this include the spikes on the tail of the Stegosaurus and the three horns attached to the front of the Triceratops's head shield.
- Pterodactyls are not dinosaurs, they were flying reptiles that lived during the age of dinosaurs but by definition they do not fall into the same category. The same goes for water based reptiles such as Plesiosaurs.
- Birds descended from a type of dinosaurs known as theropods.

RECIPES FOR KIDS

Chicken Salad & Greens

What you need:

1/2 cup plain, nonfat Greek-style yogurt 1/4 cup low-fat mayonnaise

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper 1 large celery stalk, finely chopped

1/4 cup red onion, finely chopped 1/3 cup grapes, cut in half

2 cups roasted chicken, chopped into 1/2-inch pieces

4 cups romaine lettuce, coarsely chopped

What to do:

In a large bowl, combine yogurt, may-

onnaise, salt, pepper, celery, red onion, grapes, and chicken. Mix gently until everything is well coated in dressing.

Divide lettuce between four bowls. Top each bowl with some chicken salad. Serve cold.





Music & Movies





'Saq Al Bamboo' and 'Been Galbin': Episode 14

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times is publishing daily recaps of two Kuwaiti soap operas airing on Al Rai TV and MBC Drama. Here are the recaps of the 14th episode:

'Saq Al Bamboo' (Bamboo Stalk)

Noor asks Eisa about Jaber and he recalls their meeting in the Philippines, where he and his friends made fun of him.

Jaber asks Khawla for Noor's phone number so he can call her if Khawla doesn't answer his calls. Then he calls Noor and starts talking, but Noor doesn't give him a chance.

Ghanima, Hind, Khawla and Noor go to the chalet with Eisa, who is sitting in the other car with the servants. When Eisa informs Ghanima about his arrival, he is told to stay in his room in the chalet. Jaber and Eisa don't know each other, but they start racing on the road. Jaber seems to be interested in Noor and asks Khawla if Noor is seeing somebody.

Been Galbin (Between Two Hearts)

The detective that Aryam hired to find information about Dana tells Aryam that he didn't find anything after a week of investigating and that she has no criminal record. So Aryam decides to do something herself. She makes an appointment at the salon where Dana works, insisting she wants Dana to do her makeup. After she is done, Aryam tells her who she is and that she still loves Bashar and got divorced to be with him. She also told her that she is an obstacle in their way and

should leave, and that she is sure Bashar will choose her. Dana tells her that this decision is in Bashar's hands. If he decides to be with Aryam, she will get out of his life, but if he chooses her and her baby, then Aryam will have to leave him alone.

Yasmin starts to feel lonely. When she goes to eat in a mall, she sees Muhsen with their son and hugs the child, but his dad pulls him away and leaves. She starts missing her kids and wonders if their father will let her see them.



Film Review

'Central Intelligence'

ie words "action comedy" go together not just because the movies they describe combine action and comedy. They go together because, in a machine-tooled lark like "Central Intelligence," each one becomes the other. The dialogue, as guick and aggressive as a punch to the face, really is a form of action; the gun battles, car crashes, and hurtling bodies are staged with a more-mayhemthe-better lightness that turns violence into something to giggle at, as if it were all transpiring in a Road Runner cartoon. At least, that's the idea. In "Central Intelligence," when Calvin Joyner (Kevin Hart), a mild-mannered accountant coerced into becoming the partner of a rogue CIA agent, jabbers on, for the opening act or two, about how he wants nothing at all to do with this scheme ("I'm not in!" he keeps wailing; he just wants out), Hart lets his voice creep up into high Eddie Murphy dudgeon, and the words tumble out so fast that it almost stops mattering what he's saying.

It's the comedy of controlled hysteriathe verbal equivalent of madly flailing fists. And when Dwayne Johnson, as the agent in question, gets out of a jam by slamming some guy's head with an office refrigerator door, setting off water sprinklers and a smoke bomb, and pushing a mail cart (that contains Kevin Hart) through the plateglass window of what must be the 20th floor, it's all just a joke: slapstick with extra pain. Of course, the downside of the action-comedy recipe is that it risks having almost no consequence. The danger of the form is that action and comedy, instead of adding something to one another, just cancel each other out.

'The Nice Guys'

That's sort of what happens in "Central Intelligence," though you couldn't accuse the movie of not hurtling along. It deliverson some basic, giddy, turn-off-your-frontallobes level. It's an action-comedy utensil, like "Rush Hour" crossed with an old Arnold Schwarzenegger shoot-'em-up, with a few goofy added sprinkles of "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion." It's the sort of movie that, in its highly formulaic way, reveals a lot about what audiences are seeking today. A scabrous buddy comedy like "The Nice Guys" appeared to have a lot going for it, but it didn't have the right action-to-comedy ratio (there wasn't a spatter of gunfire every eight minutes), and the characters were a tad too quirky for the

"Central Intelligence" goes back to basics: Kevin Hart, as talented a funnyman as he is, squawks and rails and goes scaredy-cat on cue, while Dwayne Johnson, as the undercover agent, plays a pumpedup friendly giant who's too sensitive for his own good. The joke of both characters is right on the surface, and it stays there for

an nour and 45 minutes. The movie, in other words, serves up just enough of the standard microwaved meat and potatoes of action comedy to have the potential to be a medium-size hit. The opening flashback strikes the film's only note of over-the-top nuttiness: In a high school gym in 1996, we see Johnson's Robbie Whiedendick as the blobby loser he was-a dork who looks like Rob Schneider in a fat suit, and who gets humiliated by being tossed, naked, into the middle of a year-end pep rally.

Tattooed bruiser

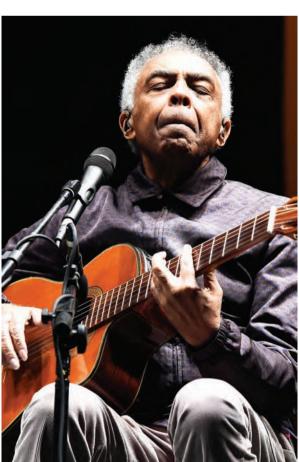
Calvin, the class superstar, is the only one who doesn't laugh at him, and twenty years later. Robbie-now under the pseudonym Bob Stone-contacts him on Facebook and arranges a reunion. As Calvin discovers, Bob, after 20 years of six-hour-a-day workouts, now looks like Dwayne Johnson, but he's the same girly-man inside (sort of). He prizes hugs and unicorns, his favorite movie is "Sixteen Candles," and whenever the subject of high school comes up, he looks like he wants to crawl under a desk. But, of course, he's also a tattooed bruiser who will kick the butt of anyone he has to, especially bullies. Johnson draws, as much as he ever has, on his ironic courtliness-the side of him that doesn't just look like Barack Obama on hulk serum but talks like Obama, with the articulate civility that has made Johnson into a gently disarming screen star. Bob get tough when he needs to, but he's always much sweeter than we expect, and in "Central Intelligence" that's Johnson's version of the Schwarzenegger

Hart is a good match for him, but he doesn't get enough good lines. After a fight, when he says to Bob, "You were like Jason Bourne, man-but with jorts!" the moment has a snap to it. But though his delivery is ace, hardly any of Hart's dialogue surprises you. And that's because the movie, after a while, turns into kind of a straight-up thriller, mostly out of laziness. It's easier to do variations on the same cloak-and-dagger crapola than it is to elevate horn-locking irritability into true banter. Bob is out to nail the Black Badger, a mystery agent who, it seems, has murdered his partner and plans to sell US satellite encryption codes to the highest bidder. But Bob's boss, played with brusquely appealing heartlessness by Amy Ryan, thinks that Bob is the Black Badger, and the way this plays out is just competent enough on a spy-game level to make you momentarily forget that you didn't buy a ticket to "Central Intelligence" to watch a third-rate Bourne film in jorts. You bought that ticket to laugh. You will not do it quite enough. — Reuters

Brazilian music legend Gilberto Gil back in hospital

he celebrated Brazilian musician Gilberto Gil was hospitalized in Sao Paulo to treat kidney failure, the medical center said. Gil, 73, has been at the Syrian Lebanese Hospital since Thursday. The hospital's press office declined to comment further on his medical condition. The musician requires monthly treatment for kidney ailments for an undetermined period, according to the G1

He was hospitalized for nine days of treatment in May. Gil told fans on Twitter and Facebook at the time that he was finishing a medical examination that he had interrupted in April to go on tour with fellow Brazilian music icon Caetano Veloso. His stay was extended due to kidney problems, the Folha de Sao Paulo daily said. Gil was previously admitted to the same hospital in February and March for high blood pressure and kidney ailments. Veloso and Gil shook the foundations of Brazilian music in the 1960s by fusing traditional samba sounds with jazz and rock. Gil served as Brazil's culture minister from 2003



This file photo shows Brazilian musician Gilberto Gil performs during the "Dois Amigos, Um Seculo de Musica" (Two Friends, a Century of Music) show with Caetano Veloso (not in frame), commemorating the 50th anniversary of their careers, in Montevideo. — AFP



File photo shows Hannah Bagshawe, left, and Eddie Redmayne arrive at the Oscars, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP

It's a baby girl for **Redmayne** and wife **Hannah**

scar winner Eddie Redmayne and daughter just in time for Father's Day. The actor's rep confirmed Sunday that the couple are new parents to daughter Iris Mary Redmayne. They announced the arrival of their first child in the UK paper "The Times." The Redmaynes have been married since late 2014.

The 34-year-old actor won an Oscar in his wife, Hannah, have welcomed a 2015 for his portrayal of Stephen Hawking in "The Theory of Everything." Redmayne was nominated again this year for his role as transgender artist Lili Elbe in "The Danish Girl." He can be seen this November in JK Rowling's "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them."— AP

Next out: Leslie Odom Jr to exit 'Hamilton' in July

week after winning a best leading actor Tony Award, Leslie Odom Jr has announced he will leave the hit Broadway musical "Hamilton," joining key principals out the door next month. The actor, who plays Aaron Burr in the hip-hop hit musical about Alexander Hamilton, announced Sunday on Facebook that he'll leave the show on July 9 when his contract is up. He has been with the show since it first began performances in early 2015.

Odom said that he would never forget the people he met during the process, which he described as "healing" and "inspiring." In an interview with The Associated Press on Friday, the actor said that he wanted to focus on his music after he leaves the show. This month, he released a self-titled iazz album, his first in a new four-CD deal with S-Curve Records. Odom's announcement follows that of show creator and star Lin-Manuel Miranda, who said Thursday that he also would exit the show on July 9. Phillipa Soo who plays Eliza Schuyler also announced this week that she'll exit the

show in July. So far, there is no word on two other principals - Tony-winner Daveed Diggs and Tony-nominee Renee Elise Goldsberry.

Many who celebrated the 11 Tony-haul of "Hamilton" have ben with the show for a long time, most for a punishing eight-showa-week schedule. And producers will soon be introducing new cast members for a production in Chicago, a national tour that kicks off on the West Coast and a London company. Odom, who studied at Carnegie Mellon University, became the youngest ever cast in the Broadway company of "Rent." He also was on TV in the series "Smash" and "CSI: Miami," in the film "Red Tails" and on Broadway in "Leap of Faith." On Friday, Odom told The AP that he was looking forward to other people tackling Burr, which was written for minority actors. "It's a great part that now exists for actors of color," he said. "I have friends that I want to see sink their teeth in this part." — AP

Catherine Deneuve to receive the 2016 Lumiere Award

egendary French actress Catherine Deneuve will receive the 8th Lumiere Award at France's 2016 Lumiere Grand Lyon Film Festival, a unique event which focuses near totally on film classics. Clint Eastwood, Quentin Tarantino, Pedro Almodovar and Martin Scorsese figure among past recipients of the Lumiere Award. They all travelled to Lyon to pick up the award, granted by Lyon's Institut Lumiere, run by French director Bertrand Tavernier and Cannes head Thierry Fremaux. "The face of French cinema," according to Scorsese, Deneuve's career is remarkable for its longevity, great films, the directors she has worked with, and the contrasting facets of a figure which confounds easy categorization. Deneuve began making films before France's Nouvelle Vague, her debut, Les Collegiennes,"

bowing in 1957, though she broke through with 1964's "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg." Getting on for sixty years later, she starred in "Standing Tall," which opened the Cannes Festival last year.

Blessed - and sometimes eclipsed - by her extraordinary beauty, she has worked with some of the world's greatest directors - Roman Polanski, Luis Bunuel, Francois Truffaut, Jacques Demy. Yet it took decades for her merits as an actress to be fully recognized. Her major prizes - an Oscar nomination ("Indochine), a Berlin Silver Bear for outstanding artistic achievement ("8 Women") an honorary Cannes Palme d'Or - have come late in her career.

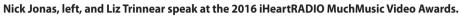
The face of French glamour - Yves St Laurent dressed her in films for years - she was the face of the Marianne, symbol of the French Republic. Yet, no conservative, she signed the Manifesto of the 343 in 1972, admitting to have practiced an illegal abortion, and was one of France's first celebrities to have children out of wedlock. Deneuve will accept the 2016 Lumiere Award on Oct.14 at Lyon's Congress Centre. — Reuters





Music & Movies







Host Gigi Hadid arrives at the 2016 iHeartRADIO MuchMusic Video Awards. — AP/AFP photos

Hadid makes a bold statement in red flared trouser suit



Members of Fifth Harmony, Liz Trinnear, center, and Shemar Moore, right, speak on stage.

ome of the biggest names in music descended on Toronto on Sunday night for the 2016 iHeartRadio Much Music Video Awards. The event which was held outside 299 Queen Street West in the city, saw a host of stars hit the outdoor red carpet including 21-year-old Gigi Hadid who stood out in one of her most colorful looks yet. The leggy model, who is hosting the Canadian awards show, made sure all eyes were on her in a bold red trouser suit and sparkling diamond choker.

The supermodel presented the iHeartRadio Much Music Video Awards in Toronto, and the red suit she's rocking was just one of the many outfits she wore throughout the night. She also modeled pieces by brands such as Uel Camilo, Elisabetta Franchi, Yeezy and August Getty Atelier. This sleek red trouser suit is by Mugler, and we love the flared trousers and stand out scarlet shade. It hails from the Resort '17 collection, so isn't yet available to buy, but luckily you've got us to help you get the look! — www.dailymail.co.uk







(From left) Camila Cabello, Normani Hamilton, Dinah-Jane Hansen, Lauren Ruth B performs on the red carpet during the Much Music Video Awards. Jauregui and Ally Brooke of Fifth Harmony.





Ryan Lewis, from left, Macklemore and Tyrone Edwards speak on stage.



Hedley performs on stage.



Shemar Moore poses for photographs on the red carpet.



Liz Trinnear, left, and Alessia Cara appear onstage.



Tyrone Edwards and Amber Rose, right, speak on stage.



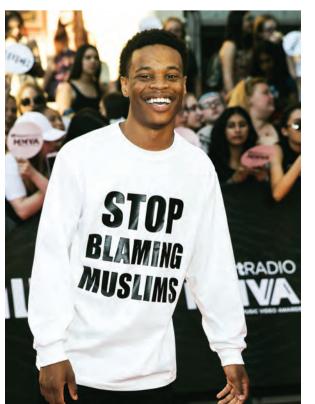
Desiigner performs on stage.



Shawn Mendes poses in the press room.



James Bay performs on stage.



John River poses for photographs on the red carpet.

2016 iHeartRadio Much Music Video Awards winners

Video of the Year Drake - Hotline Bling **Best Post Production** Majid Jordan - Every Step Every Way **Best EDM/Dance Video** Grandtheft (featuring Lowell) - Quit This City **Best Director** Drake - Hotline Bling (Director: Director X)

Best Pop Video Shawn Mendes & Camila Cabello - I Know What You Did Last Summer

Best Rock/Alternative Video The Strumbellas - Spirits **Best Hip-Hop Video** Drake - Hotline Bling

Best MuchFACT Video Majid Jordan (featuring Drake) - My Love iHeartRadio International Artist of the Year Nick Jonas - Close

Most Buzzworthy Canadian Drake - Hotline Bling **Most Buzzworthy International Artist or Group**

Fifth Harmony - Work from Home **Best New Canadian Artist** Alessia Cara - Here

iHeartRadio International Duo or Group Macklemore & Ryan Lewis - Downtown iHeartRadio Canadian Single of the Year The Weeknd - Can't Feel My Face

Fan Fave Video Shawn Mendes & Camila Cabello - I Know What You Did **Last Summer**

Fan Fave Artist or Group Justin Bieber **Fan Fave International Artist or Group** Fifth Harmony Fan Fave Vine Musician

Rajiv Dhall

Fashion

Prada treks the globe, Westwood launches Assange appeal

trict tailoring is giving way to looser, relaxed looks during the second day of menswear previews for next spring and summer on Sunday during Milan Fashion Week. The prevalent silhouette was boxy on top with athletic cut trousers as designers courted the Millennial audience, eager to mix comfort with style. Shoes were comfortable sandals with grip soles and bags were travel-ready. Androgyny remained a theme as designers presented looks meant to be worn by men and women-some more easily than others. Vivienne Westwood's collection contained equal parts looks for men and women, while Prada continued her tradition of mixing in women's looks with the menswear. Ermanno Scervino, who opted for a presentation instead of a runway show, said he would mix his men's and women's collections during the September fashion week. Some highlights from Sunday's shows:



Globetrotting Millennials

The Prada man dresses for comfort on his long global trek, but packs for a night out. The focal point of the collection was active wear: drawstring active trousers or athletic leggings with contrast stitching for him, or walking skirts with corresponding drawstring hems for her. Colorfully strapped sandals ensure sure-footedness, while big backpacks adorned with drinking flasks and dress shoes give the air of adventure and self-sufficiency.

The must-have garment for next season: technical raincoats with satellite images of the Earth, pretty florals or a whimsical traveler's print. The designer said backstage that while recent collections were looks back in time, this one is set firmly in the now -with all its question marks. "The past is over. I want to take care of the present," she said. "The goal is to share with other people, other cultures, other mentalities." She has given her man, and woman, the option to carry everything on their backs in big utilitarian backpacks, because you never know. But she's an optimist: pointy men's dress shoes hang from the backpacks and women's heels in celebratory cotton candy pink dangle from a handbag. "In case you want to have an evening out. That was fun," she said.

FREE ASSANGE NOW

Vivienne Westwood opened her show with a video message to the British prime minister urging him to allow WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to leave the Ecuadorian embassy in London without the threat of arrest. "Whatever you do, you are not going to stop him from telling the truth," the designer intoned. The ever-political Westwood continues $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$ to push the envelope also in her runway collections. The designer who came up in the punk era champions androgyny with thin knit dresses that can function as tunics as well as Arab-inspired dresses. The collection recalled some of rock 'n' roll's greats, from Jimi Hendrix with fringe on jackets and military embellishments to Marianne Faithful with fishnet details and toga dresses and Brian Jones overdone velvet jackets.



Designer Vivienne Westwood wears a tee-shirt reading "I am Julian Assange" as she walks the runway at the end of

mental leanings is likely a reference to the debt we owe the planet. Westwood walked the runway with a T-shirt embla-

Assange has been holed up in the Ecuadorian embassy in London since 2012. He faces rape allegations in Sweden and an active investigation in the United States involving espionage, conspiracy and computer fraud.



Ermanno Scervino's menswear collection for spring-summer 2017 is intensely personal. Cat-eye motifs on sweaters were inspired by his beloved country cat, Mimmo. And the elegant silhouette with sporty touches recalls his own youthful wardrobe. "When I was 18 years old, I lived in New York, and I dressed like this," the designer said during a walkthrough of the collection in his Milan showroom. The collection contrasts materials like pajama prints and gobelin florals in tailored jackets with striped sweaters and sweat pants. Scervino indicated the moccasins, a long-time favorite of his. Scervino said he plans to show menswear alongside womenswear during the September round of runway shows. "You never see what I want to be in the menswear shows. This way I can get

Street wear

The Salvatore Ferragamo silhouette has loosened up considerably. The fashion house is transitioning to a new designer, still to be named, after the recent departure of Massimiliano Giornetti, and the runway looks presented by the in-house design team marked a decisive departure from sophisticated tailoring of recent collections. The new look is epitomized by a soft shirt on top tucked into high-waist pleated pants accented with a double-belt. The collection also featured military and safari jackets worn with primitive print neck scarves.

Ferragamo's leather craftsman sewed together 100,000 small triangles to create a mosaic-effect jacket. Bags included canvas or leather backpacks with big pockets that were replayed on the jackets and shirts. Ferragamo's Tramezza show combines leather and elastic shielding for a sneaker effect.

Guatemalan Gaucho

Missoni's looks for next summer were inspired by Guatemala, from its hand-woven fabrics and deep color palette of brown, red and orange offset by indigo, green and papaya. Designer Angela Missoni knotted scarves at the waist for a sarong effect over baggy Bermuda shorts or flared cropped trousers. The collection also referenced the South American gaucho with arched embroidery on the front of cowboy shirts, worn with Japanese denim. The colorful quetzal became a motif on sweaters and prints, while the Missoni looms wove an unprecedented 83 colors to mimic the harmonious mood of Guatemala. — AP

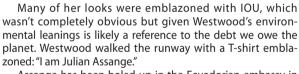














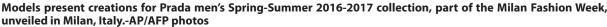




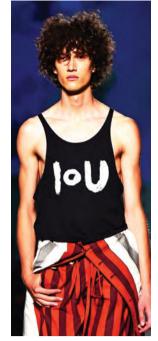




Models present creations for fashion house Missoni.

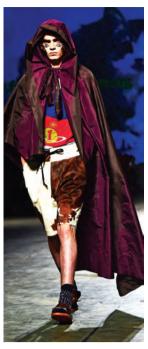


Fashion















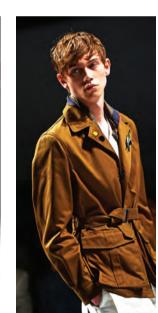












Models present creations for fashion house Salvatore Ferragamo during the Men's Spring - Summer 2017 fashion shows.











Models wear creations of Vivienne Westwood men's Spring-Summer 2016-2017 collection.

Shoexpress Ramadan Collection 2016

noexpress welcomes Summer 2016 with its sparkling collection for Ramadan. Our party range includes beautiful shoes and sandals in glitter and satin finishes. On offer, is a wide range of heels and flats to fulfill your needs for the festive Eid Celebration. Metallic shades are definitely on trend, with gold, silver, and bronze as the new Day-to-Night colors for your feet. Introducing our high gloss, liquid-metallic look, a definite addition to your collection.

Mid-season, our colors brighten up and will welcome floral designs in a big way. From full shoes in floral prints, lining details, and wedges covered in floral print, we'll bring out the essence of summer in full bloom! These prints are best suited for a lazy afternoon brunch or a dressy date night. In addition to this, we have an exciting range of 'Gladiator Sandals' and Lace-Up 'Ghillie' styles to choose from.

One of the key styles to dominate your personal flair, is Wedge Sneakers'. They will 'elevate' your style with comfort. Our range of Sporty/Outdoor shoes will definitely help you Step-Up your game with an edgy appeal to boot! You can never go wrong with our wide variety of white shoes and sandals, they can be worn on casuals or formals, for a chic look. It's a trend that'll make your outfit more modern and fresh!

Rainbow effect

As the season draws to a close, our collections favor the 'Iridescent' look of shoes and sandals. A perfect array of materials such as Metallic Snake Texture and Glitter exhibit a display of colors that produce a rainbow effect, perfect for the Shoexpress lady who loves to take fashion to an exciting level.

Kids will be overjoyed with Shoexpress' Ramadan collection filled with shimmer, glitter and metallic materials. Gladiator sandals herald the onset of summer, especially in electrifying metallic tones for your little girls. Our dainty lasercut styles give a breezy and dressy look, suited for occasions that need a little extra flair. Fall in love with our leather shoes that are attractively priced and bejeweled to add that extra zest! Boys and girls get to choose from a wide selection of comfortable, lightweight shoes in eye-catching colors and designs/styles. Discover our casual yet charming slip-ons, available in mesh and canvas styles for your little boys. Rope details make their presence felt, adding an organic and earthy vibe to your kid's feet. The "Father & Son" collection is worth

checking out for trendy new Arabic 'Chappals'.

The Back-to-School range comprises of lightweight, easy to wear, and comfortable shoes from ages three to pre-teens. Our range comprises of sporty as well as traditional black shoes. Attractive price-points are an added bonus. Floral designs are an integral part of the Kids' range for High Summer. Wedge sandals with floral prints are a must-have for our little Fashionistas! Our strappy-flat sandals adorned with glitter and gloss, offer both fashion and comfort. The trainer and lifestyle look continue to be one of the strongest features of our range. The fun is not complete without our Characters like Hello Kitty, Frozen, Cars, Spiderman, Minions, Marvel Heroes, Dora, Sponge Bob, etc.

Multicolored styles

For men this Ramadan simple, yet eye-catching best describe our Ramadan line-up of Active Footwear. Take a walk on the wild side or simply trek through the urban jungle with our varied styles of comfortable 'Chappals'. Our new range consists of light-weight, sturdy, easy to maintain, and multicolored styles perfectly aligned to the current fashion trends. Muted tints are the key color palette of our Sneaker Collection! A play on Mesh and Microfiber combinations create a textural interest, complimented by our assortment of knitted and woven styles.

Style meets performance in our Sportswear collection this season. Stretch and sock-fit shoes are becoming the obvious

choice for footwear aficionados. Elastic and Velcro straps are replacing laces to create a minimalistic yet functional look. Our new Denim and Canvas prints make a bold statement, compared to last season's conservative color scheme, creating a perfect blend of fashionable and durable textile footwear in conventional silhouettes.

Discover the magic of this season in dazzling and festive arrays of accessories featured in our Ramadan collection. Sparkle brightly with our metallic and bejeweled collection, be it a glamorous clutch or an evening bag covered in spangled materials and pearls, or tote bags and backpacks that radiate sophistication. As mid-summer approaches, soft color palettes, color-blocking styles, and minimalistic textured bags will be available in various shapes and sizes that are sure to catch your fancy.

Water-resistant materials

Stay cool with our ultra-chic and stylish range of matching bags, jewelry, and ladies' footwear. Organize your holiday getaway with our beachside totes in bright colors, exciting designs, and water-resistant materials to choose from. Make sure you're ready to roll with our latest sunglasses in cool, classic, and trendy shapes with wide assortment of colors. Our Back-To-School collection features Backpacks that are the goto choice for kids of all ages! They're a hot commodity and we have a delightful selection that is good value for money.

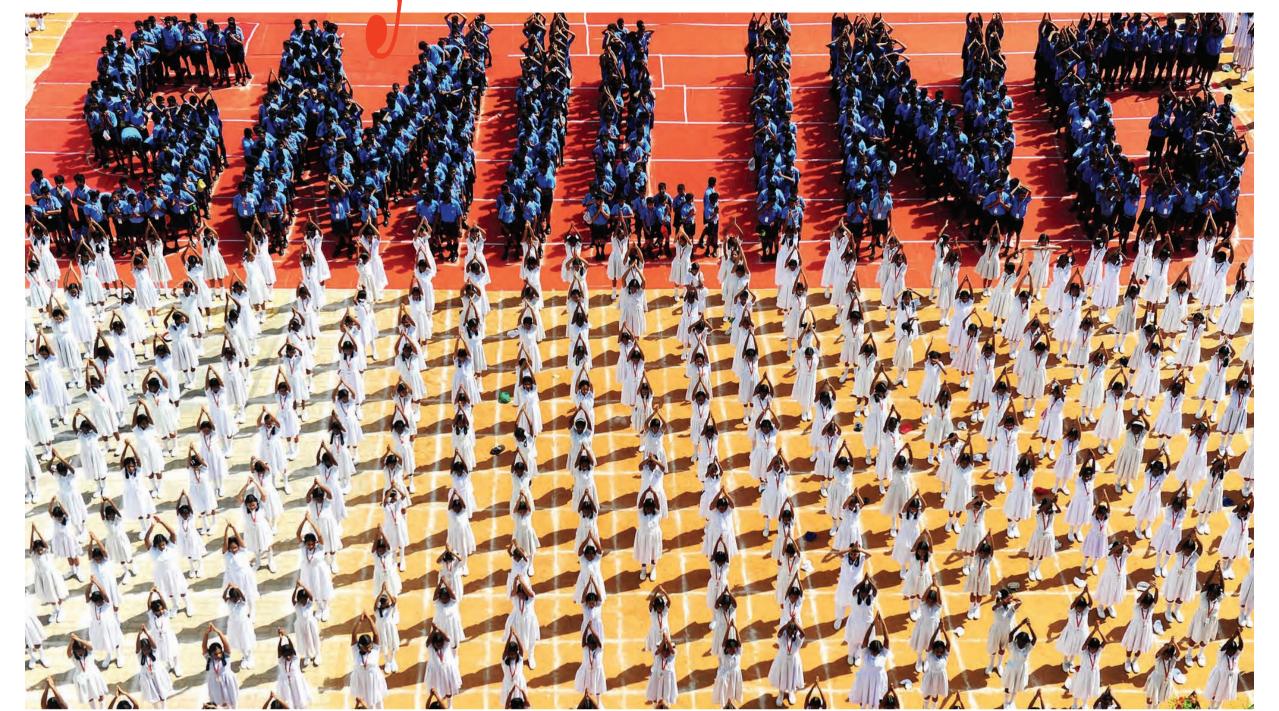
Avengers, Ben 10, Cars, Disney Princesses, Frozen, Mickey & Minnie Mouse, and The Good Dinosaur are just a few of the collections on offer this school year. Every set is complete with trolley, lunch bag, pencil case, lunchbox and water bottle, all at a very reasonable price! We love to jazz up the lives of little Princesses with our 'Girly-Girl Accessories', from pastels to vividly colored headbands, hairclips and necklaces. Our ladies range adds an air of sophistication with jewelry designs in soft tones, Floral designs, pearls, and geometric-shapes that are sure to compliment your taste and choice of style. Make the freshest statement this season for less with Shoexpress Ramadan Collection available at Star Mall -Al Rai, Souk Al Mubarakiya, Dabous Mall -Farwaniya and The Avenues.

Kuwait Times

Prada treks the globe, Westwood launches Assange appeal



TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2016



Indian schoolchildren participate in a yoga session at a school in Chennai yesterday, on the eve of International Yoga Day. 4001 schoolchildren participated in the demonstration. Yoga, which means union in Sanskrit, is a family of ancient spiritual practices and also a school of spiritual thought from the South East Asian continent, where it remains a vibrant living tradition and is seen as a means of enlightenment.—AFP

'Star Trek' actor Anton Yelchin dies in car accident

starred as Chekov in the new "Star Trek" film, was killed early Sunday in a freak car accident, his publicist said. He was 27. "The news is so sad and true," Jennifer Allen said in a statement. Yelchin "was killed in a fatal traffic collision early this morning," she added. "His family requests you respect their privacy." The accident took place in the driveway of Yelchin's San Fernando Valley home around 1:10 am (0810 GMT), when he was preparing to meet friends for a rehearsal and momentarily left his car, Los Angeles Police

The car "rolled backward down his steep driveway, pinning him against a brick mailbox pillar and security fence," she said. After he failed to show up, his friends found him dead by the car, she added, saying it was unclear how long after the accident they arrived. Born in Russia, Yelchin moved to the United States when he was six months old with his parents, star figure skaters with the Leningrad Ice Ballet. "I tried ice-skating and wasn't very good at it," he told the Daily Beast in 2011, saying that a friend of his parents urged them to enroll him in

in "A Man Is Mostly Water," and went on to win roles in television dramas and films. His breakout performance came in the 2006 crime thriller "Alpha Dog," and his movie credits include J.J Abrams's "Star Trek," "Star Trek into Darkness" and "Star Trek Beyond," which is set for release next month. He starred most recently in last year's critically acclaimed thriller "Green Room." He was also a member of the band HammerHeads. Yelchin's fellow actor John Cho, who also starred in the new Star Trek series, was among those to pay tribute to

wrote. "He was a true artist-curious, beautiful, courageous. He was a great pal and a great son. I'm in ruins." — AFP

> File photo shows actor Anton Yelchin poses during the photocall of the movie "Burying The Ex" presented out of competition at the 71st Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AFP





This image released by Disney shows the character Dory, voiced by Ellen DeGeneres, in a scene from "Finding Dory." — AP



In this file photo, host Ellen DeGeneres appears during a taping of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," in Burbank, Calif. — AP

'Finding Dory' blows animation record out of the water

■he forgetful blue fish of "Finding Dory" is box office gold. The Pixar sequel far surpassed its already ocean-sized expectations to take in \$136.2 million in North American theaters, making it the highest-grossing animated debut of all time, not adjusting for inflation, according to comScore estimates Sunday. The 2007 film "Shrek the Third" was the previous record-holder, with a \$121.6 million debut. "Finding Dory," which comes 13 years after "Finding Nemo," is also the second-largest June opening of all time, with "Jurassic World" at No. 1. The well-reviewed film features the voices of Ellen DeGeneres and Albert Brooks.

Going into the weekend, analysts expected "Finding Dory" to draw big, \$100 million-plus numbers, but never this big. "The thought was: 'Could this be the movie to eclipse "Toy Story 3's" opening?" not, 'Could it become the biggest animated opening of all time?" said Paul Dergarabedian, comScore's senior media analyst. "That's the power of the Pixar brand." Until now, "Toy Story 3" was Pixar's biggest opening ever, with \$110.3 million. Disney Executive Vice President of Distribution Dave Hollis was particularly heartened that the film did such robust latenight business on Friday and Saturday.

"That's really a testament to this being a picture for everyone - not just for families," Hollis said. "Finding Dory" has the animated seas to itself until "The Secret Life of Pets" opens July 8. The Kevin Hart and Dwayne Johnson buddy comedy "Central Intelligence" also had a relatively muscular weekend. with a better-than-expected \$34.5 million, putting it in second place. "It's a real home run," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' executive vice president of domestic distribution. "These two comedians are just stars. They connect with their audience and each other in such a strong way. You just laugh when you watch them."

Major comedy releases

"Central Intelligence" cost a reported \$50 million to make and scored especially well with younger audiences, who the studio hopes will propel wordof-mouth business in weeks to come. The next major comedy releases don't come until mid-July, with "Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates" and "Ghostbusters." In third place, the James Wan horror pic "The Conjuring 2" fell 62 percent in its second

weekend in theaters, earning \$15.6 million and bringing its domestic total to \$71.7 million. Rounding out the top five were "Now You See Me 2," with \$9.7 million, and "Warcraft," with \$6.5 million.

Overall, the weekend is down nearly 5 percent from last year, when "Inside Out" launched with \$90.4 million and "Jurassic World" earned \$106.6 million in its second weekend in theaters. Still, Dergarabedian says the comparatively big audiences this weekend are good for business in the long run because they'll be exposed to trailers for upcoming summer films. The success of "Finding Dory" and "Central Intelligence" also comes after a few weekends of underwhelming sequels and allout flops. "A movie like 'Dory' can reinvigorate a marketplace that has been in the doldrums for the last few weeks," he said. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. — AP

Beatles documentary 'Eight Days a Week' gets September launch

on Howard's authorized documentary about the early years of the Beatles has been set for US theatrical release on Sept 16 through Abramorama. The film, titled "The Beatles: Eight Days A Week - The Touring Years," will become available to stream exclusively to Hulu subscribers on the next day, Sept 17. It will be the first feature film to debut on Hulu following its theatrical premiere.

The film features exclusive footage and is produced with the full cooperation of Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Yoko Ono Lennon and Olivia Harrison. Producers are White Horse Pictures' Nigel Sinclair, Scott Pascucci and Brian Grazer of Imagine Entertainment with Howard. Apple Corps Ltd's Jeff Jones and Jonathan Clyde are serving as executive producers, along with Imagine's Michael Rosenberg and White Horse's Guy East and Nicholas Ferrall.

Studiocanal is an anchor partner on the film having acquired UK, France, Germany, Australia and New Zealand rights. Producers began selling rights at the Cannes Film Festival last month. "The Beatles: Eight Days A Week -The Touring Years" is based on the first part of the Beatles' career between 1962 and 1966 and will explore how John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr came together. The title is taken from a 1964 hit single by the group. The Beatles' "Ed Sullivan Show" appearance in 1964 caused their popularity to explode. When the band stopped touring, they had performed 166 concerts in 15 countries and 90 cities.

The film explores the inner workings of the group, their unique musical gifts and their complementary personalities and includes early performances at the Cavern Club in Liverpool to their last concert at Candlestick Park in San Francisco in 1966. "The Beatles: Eight Days A Week - The Touring Years" is the first film acquired by Hulu's Documentary Films arm, which will serve as a new home for original and exclusive documentary film titles coming to Hulu. The film will premiere on Sept 15 in London as part of its release in the UK, France and Germany, followed by the Sept 16 release in the US, Australia an New Zealand and a Sept 22 release in Japan.—Reuters



A Pakistani vendor sells praying beads to customers preparing for the upcoming Muslims' fasting month of Ramadan, in Peshawar, Pakistan. — AP